Count Cain

KAORI YUKI

- Mark of the Red Ram (2) -

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赤羊之
刻印

THE APPEARANCES OF MEREDIANNA, THE FORTUNE-TELLER WHO COMES AND GOES LIKE A PHANTOM, MATCH THE TIMES AND PLACES OF THE KILLINGS TOO PRECISELY.
I'M CERTAIN THAT EMMELINE'S MURDERER, JACK THE RIPPER, WILL REAPPEAR NEAR MEREDIANNA AS WELL.
AND YET MEREDIANNA HAS BEEN DEAD HALF A YEAR AND MORE, A ONCE-LOVELY CORPSE RESTING IN HER GRAVE.
THOSE PITIFUL GIRLS-- THEIR THROATS WERE CUT AND THEIR INNARDS TORN OUT IN THE FOULEST FORM OF SLAUGHTER.
AS THOUGH THEY WERE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS FOR SOME BLACK RITE OF SORCERY...
STILL I WONDER... WAS THAT BODY TRULY HER OWN? OR ELSE MIGHT IT HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER WOMAN'S BODY?
EMMELINE...!

IF I PROBE MORE DEEPLY INTO MEREDIANNA'S CONNECTION WITH THE DOCTOR,
THUNK!
I'M CERTAIN TO CRACK THE CASE OF JACK THE RIPPER ...
EMMELINE...!
I SWEAR TO YOU I'LL SEND THAT VILLAIN TO HELL!
AND MEREDIANNA... SURELY I CAN SAVE YOU...
FROM THE GRASP OF THAT FIEND OF A DOCTOR!
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR COAT, SIR.

I'VE READIED THE CAR, AS WELL.
OR DID YOU INTEND TO LEAVE ME BEHIND, MY LORD?
TO MEREDIANNA'S PARENTS' HOME, THEN, AND QUICKLY!
YES, SIR.
MY LADY, A GUEST HAS ARRIVED.
WHY, WHAT TIMING— COUNT HARSREAVES HAS JUST LEFT.
I'M SO GLAD HE'S COME! THE AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE READY SOON!
IS THAT GILFORD'S NEW PSYCHIATRIST?

I'D TRIED TO PERSUADE THE COUNT TO STAY WITH US UNTIL HIS MOURNING HAD EASED SOMEHOW.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I TRIED, DURING THAT TIME I WAS ONLY ABLE TO HEAL GILFORD'S BODY, AND IF HE IS NOT IN A FIT STATE TO TAKE MERRYWEATHER AS A FIANCEE...!
THAT'S RIGHT...WE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT PERMIT THE FAMILY TITLE TO BE DESTROYED!
PARDON ME, MARQUIS ROTTERDALE ...
WAIT HERE A MOMENT, PLEASE.
DR. HARRISON SENT AN INTRO-DUCTION FOR ME; MY NAME IS BARRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I PROTECT MY PATIENTS' PRIVACY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
HE'S BENEATH THIS STAIRWAY. WE'VE TRIED SO HARD, BUT...
KA-THUMP
EH...ER... WELL...AS YOU WISH!
MA'M, FROM HERE ON, I SHOULD GO ALONE.

COME ON, NOW,
"MASTER" GILFORD...!
YEAH, JUST SPIT IT OUT...WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AND CRY...
EH? WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, LI'L "MASTER", SIR?
JUST TRY AND SAY IT...
HEY!!
WHERE WILL YOU RUN TO?
YOU TRYIN' TO RUN AWAY?
HEY!
*SFX = FWIP

SFX: SWISH
UH!
ZING
KACHUNK
YOU LITTLE PUNK! YOU FEEL LIKE DYING? I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF...
SHEESH...
YOU'RE NO FUN TO PLAY WITH...
YOU LITTLE-- WHAT THE HELL'S THAT THING?
WHAT...!!

!
KER-THUMP!
CLATTER CLATTER
OWW ~~~~!
HA HA HA ...
WHAT A FREAK...
WHO ARE YOU?
.....?
HA HA... PARDON ME!
THOSE STAIRS ARE SO DARK AND CURVING, I COMPLETELY MISSED ONE, AND DOWN I WENT...
NICE TO MEET YOU, GILFORD!
I'M YOUR NEW PSY-CHIATRIST, DOCTOR HARRISON'S REPLACE-MENT.

...YOU'RE QUITE THE NAUGHTY BOY, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, TOTALLY ASIDE FROM THAT...
I-IN THAT CASE, I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK...!
LATER!
OH CRAP-
YOU'RE A DOCTOR...?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
LIAR...

IT'S THE FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFER, WHO THROUGH HIS BEAUTY AND POWER PLOTTED A REVOLT AGAINST HEAVEN AND WAS CAST DOWN TO THE EARTH.
SEE, LOOK OVER THERE, THE PICTURE ON THAT WALL--
AND SEE-- BEHIND YOU.
ARE YOU THE DEVIL?
LOOK SUCH LOO-ONG ASH-BLONDE HAIR..!
YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO ME! I'VE BEEN WAITING SO, SO LONG FOR YOU TO COME..!
IF I AM THE DEVIL, THEN..
HELL'S OWN MANSERVANT, THE SMALL DEMON WHO FOLLOWS YOU..

WHAT DESIRE SHALL I TEMPT YOU WITH?
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
I CAN'T EAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
NOT WHILE BIG BROTHER'S GONE AND RUN OFF SOMEWHERE AND...
WELL, I'M A MAN. I CAN'T NOT EAT JUST BECAUSE SOME CRISIS HAPPENED!
YOU'RE A FUSSY LITTLE KID, KIDS GET PUNISHED AND SENT TO BED WITHOUT THEIR DINNER ALL THE TIME, SO YOU PROBABLY THINK NOTHING OF IT
WHAT IS IT? DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT ANYMORE, MERRY-WEATHER?
HOW COME YOU EAT SO MUCH, OSCAR?
HE STILL HASN'T GOTTEN THE MESSAGE HAS HE?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

GWA HA HA HA
GUYS THINK THAT A WOMAN WITH BREASTS IS BETTER LOOKING THAN SOMEONE SO FLAT SHE COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR CROP CIRCLES ON A PRAIRIE!
WELL, SPEAKING OF THAT,
PLOP
'SCUSE ME, HON, BUT YES IT IS MY BUSINESS!
WHEN WOMEN GO ON THESE RECKLESS DIETS AND WRECK THEIR BODIES TYING THEMSELVES INTO CORSETS--
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE TO EAT THREE MEALS A DAY TO BE HEALTHY, IF YOU'RE STARVING YOURSELF FOR REASONS LIKE THAT, THAT'S WHAT I'D CALL RECKLESS!
FUUUME
WHAT DOES HE KNOW, THAT INSENSITIVE DOLT! NO DELICACY AT ALL! I HATE HIM!
WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S SAYING, "CROP CIRCLES" ? STONEHENGE MORE LIKE!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!!
HAHA!!
I'M LEAVING NOW! I PROMISED GILFORD!
LADY EVERETT, WHO IS THIS?

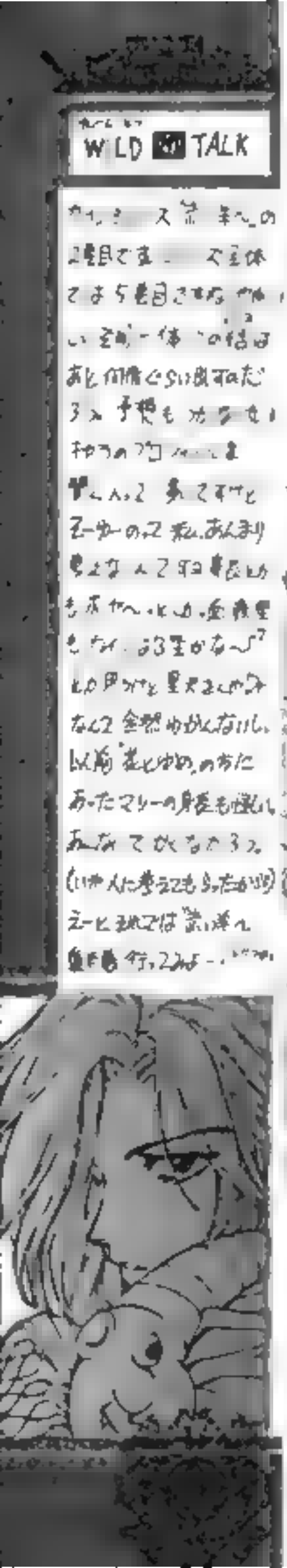
THE PERSON NEXT TO MEREDIANNA IN THIS PICTURE --I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE ..
AH, THAT'S MEREDIANNA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, A MAID'S DAUGHTER
THE TWO OF THEM WERE JUST LIKE SISTERS, ALWAYS TOGETHER..
COULD I MEET HER?
NO, SHE'S NO LONGER WITH US..
AROUND THE SAME TIME AS MEREDIANNA'S ACCIDENT, SHE COMPLETELY VANISHED
THE POOR GIRL HAD NO FAMILY AT ALL; I WONDER WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO HER...
RATTLE RATTLE
AAH--!

OH NO-- WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WELL. YES, JUST A BIT .. IF I MIGHT BORROW YOUR WASH-ROOM...
BUT YOUR HAND'S BEEN CUT--
NO, I'M FINE, MA'M ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IT SEEMS THAT YOUR HANDS WERE SHAKING
OH, I'M SO SORRY...
JUST LIKE LADY MEREDIANNA, WITH STRAW-BERRY-BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES. THEY LOOKED LIKE A PAIR OF DOLLS STANDING SIDE BY SIDE.
SHE WAS SUCH A BRIGHT AND CHEER-FUL GIRL.
A VANISHED MAID?
YES, THAT WAS ELSE ..

WHEN SHE DISAPPEARED SO SUDDENLY, WERE ALL SO SHOCKED, YOU KNOW
LADY MERE-DIANNA'S SUICIDE MUST HAVE...
!
SUICIDE ?!
YOU MEAN, RATHER THAN BEING THROWN FROM A CARRIAGE, MERE-DIANNA KILLED HER-SELF?!
THAT CAN'T BE!
I..I DIDN'T MEAN..

FOR A GIRL LIKE THAT TO KILL HERSELF-- RATHER THAN HEAVEN, FOR HER TO BE WANDERING IN HEL....
SHE WAS AN INNOCENT, PURE-MINDED ANGEL...!
MY DAUGHTER..
SHE WOULD NOT HAVE KILLED HERSELF...!
SHE WOULD NOT HAVE KILLED HERSELF ...!
MASTER CAIN. ?
COULD THE CAUSE OF HER SUICIDE HAVE BEEN UNREQUITED LOVE?
..
YOU'RE RIGHT
..
AND THEN SHE KILLED HERSELF, DIDN'T SHE?
MEREDIANNA HAD BEEN BETRAYED BY OR SEPARATED FROM THIS MAN W TH A RING,
LOOK AT THIS. WHEN THE PICTURE FRAME BROKE EARLIER, I FOUND ANOTHER PICTURE HIDDEN BEHIND IT

WILD TALK



THAT IS TO SAY THE DAY BEFORE SHE WAS BROUGHT TO SUCH A STATE, BEFORE SHE THREW HER LIFE AWAY. SHE BURNED EVERYTHING THAT HAD TO DO WITH HIM.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM AT ALL

MEPE-DIANNA

THEN I WONDER WHO THE MAN BESIDE HER IS?

I DON'T KNOW

A MAN SHE LOVED TO HER DEATH.

COUNT HARGREAVES, PLEASE LET THE POOR GIRL REST IN PEACE

BECAUSE WE'VE ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH. TRULY

I BEG YOU

HIS HEAD HAD ROLLED UNDERNEATH THE BED.
HIS LIMBS WERE SCATTERED EVERYWHERE IN THE ROOM..
THERE DIED A MAN.
A VERY USELESS MAN,
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THAT MURDERING DEMON'S BEEN WANDERING AROUND THIS AREA TOO, SO..
MY MISTRESS TOLD ME TO BE CAREFUL NEVER TO LEAVE HIM ALONE
OH--!
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. THEY TOLD ME NEVER TO TAKE MY EYES OFF MASTER GILFORD!
...!

SO THEN, THAT STRANGE DRAWING HE MADE .IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A RED SHEEP .AND HE'S SPOKEN OF IT TOO
MASTER GILFORD, MASTER CAIN HAS COME TO SEE YOU!
BUT EVER SINCE THEN, IT'S ODD... MASTER GILFORD KEEPS MAKING A FUSS ABOUT "THE RED RAM, THE RED RAM!"
!
YES, OF COURSE!
JACK THE RIPPER--?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HERE GILFORD-- YOU DROPPED THIS SOME TIME AGO
AH! BROTHER! WELCOME BACK!
♡
OH, IT'S MR PUNCH!
IT'S BROKEN, THE NEEDLE THAT CAME FROM HIS HAND IS GONE ..
NEEDLE?

SO, LET'S DRAW SOME PICTURES!
MERRY, WHERE'S THE PICTURE OF THE RED SHEEP I SAVE YOU?
I SEE.
TOO BAD
. WONDER WHY THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE A NEEDLE IN HIS HAND.. IT'S STRANGE..
AH... UM.. ER
THAT
BUT I TRIED TO TAKE REALLY GOOD CARE OF IT . REALLY, I DID!
HMPH~~
AHH~~~ SURELY I'LL FIND T~~~
NEVER MIND~~~~
Sigh
I'M SORRY! I HAD IT UP UNTIL YESTERDAY,
BUT THEN IT SUDDENLY VANISHED!

RIIIP!
EVEN THOUGH.. I WAS ALWAYS THE ONLY ONE HE'D CONFINE IN, THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM HE WOULD GIVE HIS HEART
SHE'S THE MAID, LIZA .AND WITH GILFORD'S PICTURE OF THE RED SHEEP ..?
WHY? WHY SOMEONE LIKE THAT HALF-GROWN LITTLE GIRL.. ?
RIIIP RIIP
!
RAM
I WON'T GIVE IT BACK ..!
I WON'T GIVE IT BACK!
I WON'T.. EVER... EVER ..
MASTER GILFORD ..!
I'M JUST A LEMMING KNOWING NOTHING BLINDLY CHARGING AHEAD..
LIKE THE FOOL CARD, UNABLE TO SENSE HOW QUICKLY THE CLIFF'S EDGE IS COMING..!
EMMELINE MEREDIANNA
WHY DO BOTH OF THEM HAUNT MY DREAMS SO? DESPITE SO MUCH SUFFERING THAT CAN NOTHING ELSE BEFORE MY EYES

WOW! GILFORD, THAT'S GREAT!
LOOK!
THIS ONE IS MERRY, AND THIS ONE IS CAIN
SO, THIS ONE THIS ONE
SAY, SHALL I COLOR RED AROUND HER NECK?
THIS ONE IS EMMELINE!
SINCE SHE DIED WITH HER THROAT CUT, AFTER ALL...
KA-SNIP!
♪ AND THE QUEEN OF HEARTS SAID, "OFF WITH HER HEAD!" ♫♪

"RED SHOES" WAS PRETTY, BUT SHE DID BAD THINGS. THAT WAS A STORY ABOUT A GIRL WHO DANCED UNTIL BOTH HER FEET WERE GROUND OFF, YOU KNOW?
SO BOTH THE HANDS THAT USED TO BEAT ME AND THE FEET THAT USED TO TRAMPLE ON ME ..
GILFORD ..?
THIS IS WILL, THE NASTY BOY WHO BULLIED ME
WHAT'S WRONG? MERRY-WEATHER?
I'LL CUT THEM ALL OFF!
LOOK, THEY CAN'T DO BAD THINGS ANYMORE
YOU... WHO ARE YOU..?
YOU'RE NOT THE GILFORD I KNOW!
OH, BUT I FORGOT LAST OF ALL. I'VE GOT TO BE SURE TO CUT THE HEADS OFF.

A very useless man—
There died a man.
AEEEII~
THIS IS ME FOOD SLIDE!
OH DON'T SAY THAT! I'M GUFOOD MEGGY-WEATHER

"IT'S MIRROR

"AH HA HA HA HA
COME LET'S HAVE TEA GILFORD CAIN
POD HEAVEN'S SAKE YOU'VE DIRTIED YOUR DRESS AGAIN!
WHATEVER YOU DO YOU'RE A BAD GIRL EMMELINE!
"I WANT YOU TO BECOME SO STRONG THAT THINGS LIKE THIS CAN'T DEFEAT YOU"
BUT I NEVER TOLD YOU THESE WORDS THAT WERE IN MY HEART
YOUR PARENTS LAUGHED AT YOU AND I LOOKED AT YOU AND PILED ANOTHER HUMILIATION ATOP THE RIS
I SPOKE TO MYSELF THESE WORDS
THAT TIME
NO!
COME OVER HERE QUICK BOYS!
WHAT A SHAME-FUL NESS
WHAT, THAT DIMWIT?
SAY ISN'T EMMELINE PLAYING TOO?
AND IF HE COMES HE'LL GRANT OUR WISHES! WE'LL SAY "PLEASE GO AND KILL EVERYBODY WHO GETS IN OUR WAY."
IF WE DO IT THIS WAY, WE CAN CALL THE DEVIL!
COME ON, EMME-LINE!
ACK!
SHE GOT STUCK!
HA HA!
GILFORD!!

I REM-EMBER NOW!
COME, LET US OFFER UP THIS SACRIFICE TO THE DEVIL!
LOOK, WHEN IT'S REFLECTED IN THE MIRROR, YOU CAN READ IT. THIS WILL SEAL THE CONTRACT WITH THE DARK POWERS.
STOP IT..
..OW!
CAIN.
SEVEN YEARS AGO
WHY DID YOU GET IN MY WAY ?

THAT'S WHAT IT WAS--THAT "RED SHEEP" WAS--
THEY WON'T STAY IN HIS MIND.
MY BROTHER CAN ONLY WRITE IN A REVERSED ALPHABET THINGS LIKE NUMBERS AND THE LETTERS C, U, AND W
THAT'S RIGHT!
"RED RAM"!
CAIN..
WHAT'S WRONG?
SO, YOU'VE FINALLY REMEMBERED
WERE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR THAT PICTURE?

AGAIN!
BUT IF YOU GET IN THE WAY LIKE YOU DID LAST TIME
SHALL I GO AND CHOP YOUR HEAD OFF TOO?
CAIN'

赤い羊の刻印

THAT'S RIGHT
MURDER
THAT PICTURE- WHAT DOES THE PICTURE OF THE BUTTERFLY MEAN?
GILFORD! LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY- THAT'S THE PERSON WHO KILLED YOUR
SO?

GILFORD!
IT WASN'T ME WHO GOT HURT,
SO IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFER-ENCE
BUT YOU DON'T LOOK ILL TO ME
THEY SAID THAT YOU WERE FRAIL. IS THAT THE REASON YOU DON'T COME TO SCHOOL ANYMORE?
IF ONE CAN'T GO OUT IN PUBLIC. IS THERE SOME SHAMEFUL REASON FOR THAT ..?
HEY, HOW COME ?
THAT'S RIGHT
THIS REALLY IS THE GILFORD I KNEW SO LONG AGO...
YOU'RE IMPERTINENT, CA N BOTH THEN AND NOW
I OUTRANK YOU AND I'M THREE YEARS YOUR ELDER, TOO

THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT ..EVEN GONE TO RUIN, A MARQUIS IS A MARQUIS THOSE ARE YOUR OWN WORDS
EVEN THOUGH YOUR FAMILY CAME BEGGING IN TERMS FOR A MARR AGE-ALLIANCE TO MY LOWER-BORN HOUSE .
YOU CAN'T BEAT ME EVEN ONE SINGLE TIME, YOu KNOW .
IF YOU KNOW, KEEP YOUR MOuTH SHuT
heh
HAH
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW MANY WOMEN TO WHOM YOU'VE OFFERED YOUR NAME HAVE GONE THROUGH YOUR HANDS?
EMMELINE. SHE FELL SO DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH YOU THAT SHE DIED, POOR PATHETIC EMMELINE
YOU WERE THE TYPE OF CHILD WHO SAVORED YOUR SUPERIORITY OVER OTHERS-- MOCKING WEAK THINGS IN FRONT OF EMMELINE, AND THAT FRAGILE, DEFENSELESS LITTLE BIRD
BOTH THEN AND NOW, YOU NEVER CHANGE.

WILD TALK
BUT WE DON'T NEED EMMELINE ANYMORE
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT
MUCH AS I HATE IT, YOUR HARGREAVES BLOOD IS ESSENTIAL TO MY HOUSE.
SHE'S COMPLETELY ADORABLE, ISN'T SHE?
I'LL TAKE MERRY-WEATHER,
SINCE SHE'S SO LOVABLE, I'VE ALREADY GONE AND KISSED HER ONCE
CAIN

I'VE ASKED THE DEVIL TO USE HIS MAGIC TO CHANGE ME BACK TO MY REAL SELF
SHE'S A LITTLE FRIGHTENED OF ME RIGHT NOW, BUT SHE'LL GET USED TO ME
THE DEVIL?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE BRINGS A LITTLE DEMON WITH HIM, AND HIS LONG HAIR FLOATS AROUND LIKE ASHEN WINGS
A DEVIL WITH MAD AMETHYST EYES.
THAT--
THAT REVERSED WRITING IS..!

PLEASE WAIT, MY LORD!
MY LORD?!
DAMN IT!
OUT OF MY WAY!
-SHOVE-
IT CAN'T BE HE'S ..?!
clatter
clatter
clatter
GILFORD!
WHAM!
IT'S THE SECOND ACT OF THE PUPPET SHOW-- IT'S STARTING, IT'S STARTING!
CAIN, GO HIDE OVER THERE AND WATCH!

"GETTING EVEN" WITH WILL MEANT MURDER?!
IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT! HOW DID YOU SNEAK OUT?
SO IT'S TRUE ...!
Slap!
Pant...
Pant..
Pant
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, LIZA!
EH?!
PLEASE, MY LORD, STOP IT!
FROM WHAT YOU'D TOLD ME BEFORE, MASTER GILFORD HAD SUFFERED SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS AT HIS HANDS!
THE THINGS WILL DID TO ME---
YOU KNEW ?
FATHER

BUT THINGS LIKE THAT DIDN'T MATTER!
YES!
DIDN'T
MATTER
YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND, BOTH THAT INCIDENT, AND THIS ONE--
I'M SICK OF IT ALREADY!
MY LORD--!
AAH!!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO BUT LEAVE THE TITLE TO MY NEPHEW BERDICE!
YOU'VE DISGRACED MY NAME THROUGH THE MUD! YOU'VE GOT NO COURTESY LEFT FOR FOLK LIKE YOU!
GILFORD, YOU'VE BEEN THE BANE OF MY EXISTENCE! I'M SENDING YOU TO THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE IT AGAIN!

tak
tak
tak
PLEASE, MY LORD, WAIT--! PLEASE--!
MY LORD..!
CHANGE THE LOCKS AFTER THIS;
CHANGE THE GUARDS TOO!
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY THIS TIME, GILFORD!
THAT'S THE END OF THE SHOW, CAIN
!
APPLAUSE ?

WHAT?
GASP!
OHH-- OH-- YOUR HAND . LET ME...
COME, TELL MY FORTUNE NEXT, LADY MEREDIANNA!
MY FUTURE WITH HIM.
NO!
EXCUSE ME. !
LADY MERE-DIANNA . . !
MERE-DIANNA!

FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THIS TALENT WAS LIKELY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FACT THAT THE RESURRECTION PROCESS LEAVES ONE'S MIND A BLANK SLATE
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I THINK. THE PARTY WILL BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.. AND I OUGHT TO HAVE PLENTY OF DATA BY NOW
PLEASE NO MORE, DOCTOR!
IT'S COME TO THAT, HAS IT..
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!
NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE
DOCTOR, I'M BEGGING YOU ALL THOSE MURDERS FOR MY SAKE..
PLEASE, STOP IT!
THERE-- THERE HAS TO BE SOME OTHER WAY
CAIN..!
LIKE ANY NORMAL HUMAN BEING, HAVING SUCH A SURFEIT OF WICKED THOUGHTS FLOODING INTO YOU..!
BUT THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE YOU'RE JUST LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN, AREN'T YOU..

I CAN'T TELL YOU IF THAT S THE TRUTH OR NOT
BUT, YOU KNOW,
SINCE PEOPLE CAN FAKE LOVING EACH OTHER !
CAIN.. !
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE I SAY THIS VERY OFTEN, BUT IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME !
PLEASE!
I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY-MORE!
CAIN'S BEAUTIFUL FIANCÉE, KILLED BY JACK THE RIPPER--
PLEASE!
I NEVER WANT TO SEE CAIN AGAIN. !
REALLY LOVE YOU,' YOU SAID?
HEH
'IF I ..
BEING HELD TIGHT .. AND BEING TOLD "I LOVE YOU."
SLAP!
!

ME, I HATE THOSE HYPERSENSITIVE NERVES OF YOUR
STILL, THAT THING CALLED BEAUTY--PEOPLE FAWN AND PANT OVER IT SO, THINKING TO LIVE WITHOUT EVER SEEING AN UNATTRACTIVE THING, SUCH IMPUDENCE.!
BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU'RE A SELF-SERVING NARCISSIST WHO WAS COMPLETELY DUMBFOUNDED BY A SINGLE REBUFF, WHO CHOSE TO DIE RATHER THAN FACE REALITY!
NO..!
N-..
EVERYONE IN THE WORLD THINKS SOMEONE LOVES THEM. ONCE IN A WHILE, ACCEPT THAT IT'S A REPREHENSIBLE JOKE AND PITY YOURSELF AS THE VICTIM OF ITS CRUELTY..!
STOP.
FILTHY, REPULSIVE, AND DESPISED-- A THING TO BE KICKED ASIDE?!
YOU'VE EATEN THE ENTRAILS OF TOTAL STRANGERS! DO YOU HAVE ANY SELF CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A MONSTER ESCAPED FROM YOUR GRAVE?!
MEREDIANNA!
IT..
AHH--!
STOP IT..!

WAHAHAHA! AHAHAAA... WAHAHA HAHAA..
shock!
!
JUST LIKE THIS, I..
WANT TO BREAK YOU..
TO TAKE A SCALPEL AND CARVE YOU ANEW
I...
I HAVE YOU..
I WANT TO MAKE THEM ALL THE SAME
I WANT TO RIP OUT YOUR ENTRAILS, BLOOD-RED LIKE ROSES
THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS OF THIS WORLD, ALL OF THEM--

WHAT ON EARTH...?!
WHA-
AHAHAHA! HAHAHAHAHA!
heehee... hee hee...
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID THING!
shatter!
TINKLE
WHAT IN THE WORLD? I THINK I'VE HEARD A FAIRY TALE LIKE THIS, LONG AGO BUT INSTEAD OF THIS JACK IT WAS
PUMPKIN HEADED JACK...!?"
AHAHAHA! heeee heehee!

*[Translator: She misunderstood Jack-o-lantern, she wrote Pumpkin-Headed Jack as though it were a character like Jack the Giant Killer or Jack the Ripper.]

A LAUGHING SACK...!
SILFORD! IT'S HORRIBLE-
AMM...
SPLAT-TER!
gak!

HAD HIS HEAD CHOPPED OFF WITH A PAIR OF SHEARS?
GILFORD, JUST BRACE YOURSELF, AND LISTEN TO ME... YOUR...YOUR FATHER..
MERRY!
IN ALL THE FUSS AND COM-MOTION I TOOK THE KEYS AND I RAN STRAIGHT HERE!
YOU'VE GOTTEN RIGHT IN, EVEN THOUGH FATHER CHANGED THE LOCKS
WHAT?! HOW DID YOU ?
EH?
OH
THIS DOLL--
IT'S AN EXECU-TION!
YOU KNOW, MERRY-WHEATHER, I REALLY LOVE YOU
AFTER THIS, IT S ONLY CAIN, MERRY-- HE S THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN OUR WAY...

WHERE DID HE GO? CAN'T I SEE HIM AGAIN...?

WHA-?!
MASTER GILFORD --!
I HATE YOU.
GIVE ME BACK MY GILFORD.!
OH, HOW CRUEL.! YOUR POOR FACE.
LIZA. YOU CAME BACK FOR ME, DIDN'T YOU?
MERRY WAS SO MEAN
IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE AREN'T YOU? THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GENTLE WITH ME...
OF COURSE I AM!
THAT'S RIGHT.. THE PERSON YOU ARE WHEN YOU'RE IN THIS ROOM IS SOMEONE WHO'S MINE ALONE SO DON'T GO SEARCHING FOR ANYONE ELSE..!
YOU'RE DIFFERENT THAN YOU USED TO BE, SO.

SO
IS THAT WHY YOU GAVE ME DRUGS TO
MA
LIZA?
NO, NEVER! YOU--
AAAHHHH!

AND WHAT IS IT YOU'RE DOING THERE, MERED.ANNA?
KYAA--!
YOU'LL RUN AWAY FROM ME, AND THEN WHAT?
IN ONE WEEK, YOU'LL BE AN UGLY, ROTTING CORPSE!

YES, ALL THE THINGS YOU SAID WERE TRUE! BUT I'M NEVER GOING TO PITY MYSELF AND RUN AWAY AGAIN -- I'M GOING TO FIGHT BACK!
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY BE ALIVE!
YOU WON'T LET ANOTHER ONE LIKE HER GET AWAY FROM YOU TWICE
AND I WON'T LET EVEN ONE MORE PERSON DIE BECAUSE OF ME!
WRONG!
STAYING HERE IS JUST AS BAD AS BEING DEAD!
SO ..
THIS GAUDY BLONDE HAIR IS JUST GETTING IN THE WAY!
CAN YOU DO THAT BY YOURSELF?
I'M GOING TO PROVE IT AND SHOW YOU!

HAVE A NICE DAY, DOCTOR!
YOU LET HER RUN OFF ON PURPOSE DIDN'T YOU AFTER THIS PEOPLE ARE GOING TO START MISTRUSTING THE ORGANIZATION AND ASKING AWKWARD QUESTIONS.
OH, BY ALL MEANS, GO ON AND REPORT THIS AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN A WAY THAT SUITS YOUR OWN PURPOSES.
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT NOT TO CHASE HER DOWN?

THE THINGS THAT ANYBODY TRULY WANTS EVEN THOUGH THEY UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH THINGS ARE ETERNALLY BEYOND REACH,
THEY STRETCH OUT BOTH HANDS AND CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE IN VAIN
JUST LIKE BITTER LOVE, ISN'T IT
!
NO CASSIAN
ABOUT THAT GROWN-UP BODY THAT YOU WANT ME TO ACQUIRE FOR YOU-- IF YOU TEMPT ME IF YOU GET TOO ARROGANT,
THE TOWER WE USED TO CLIMB!
AND
THAT'S RIGHT-- I'M SURE IT'S THIS FOREST! I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER DIMLY
THE PATH WHERE WE OFTEN PLAYED SO LONG AGO

THE TOWER WHERE MISS MEREDIANNA FLUNG HERSELF DOWN AND DIED ..
IT'S CRUMBLING A GREAT DEAL DUE TO ITS AGE, THE NO- TRESPASSING SIGN--
LET'S GO IN AND SEE
AND ABOUT THE MAN BESIDE HER ..?
I'VE INVESTIGATED, BUT IT TRULY SEEMS AS THOUGH EVERYTHING TO DO WITH MISS MEREDIANNA'S SUICIDE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ERADICATED
THERE IT IS, MASTER CAIN--
AFTER THAT, THERE WAS THE MAID, ELISE CARSON, WHO VANISHED JUST AS SHE HAD.. THERE WAS A DISTINGISHING MARK ON HER BODY, DUE TO AN ACCIDENT WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE, THERE WAS A BURN-SCAR SHAPED LIKE A FLOWER PETAL ON HER LEFT ARM. THAT'S ALL THERE WAS ..
STILL, IF WE HAVE TO DIG UP HER BODY AGAIN IN ORDER TO BE SURE...
I WONDER IF IT WAS ELISE'S CORPSE IN MEREDIANNA'S GRAVE..

THAT'S RIGHT I'M SURE I'VE BEEN HERE BE-FORE..! WHO WAS I WITH..?
MY HEAD HURTS !
UHH !
CLATTER
IT WAS .. IT WAS. !
COME ON, LET'S GO-- TO A WORLD WHERE NO ONE WILL GET IN OUR WAY
DON'T BE SCARED, MERE-DIANNA!
ALL RIGHT
STOP!!
MERE-DIANNA!!

DON'T.
STOP! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
MERE-DIANNA--! HERE, OF ALL PLACES --?!
CAIN!
OR ELSE IS IT-- HER HAIR'S BEEN--

EMMELINE--!
IT'S MY FAULT YOUR FIANCÉE DIED!
EMM-ELINE.
I'VE DIED ONCE ALREADY-- BECAUSE THE DOC-TOR BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE LIKE TH S, JACK THE RIPPER MAKES BLO-OD SACRIFICES BECAUSE OF ME !
EMMILINE, A SACRI-FICE..?!
HOW COULD SUCH A THING!?
SO, PLEASE, CA N-- I BEG YOU-- DON'T EVER LOOK AT ME AGAIN!!

MASTER CAIN...!!

赤羊之刻印

MASTER
CAIN...!

!
NOOO-!
CAIN--!
CAIN!
ANSWER
ME---!
MASTER
CAIN...!

SURE.
MASTER CAIN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ACK--!! SETTLE DOWN!
H-H-HO-
HOW ~~~P!
DIDN'T YOU JUST FALL OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TOWER?!
C...
CAIN ?!
I CAUGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE CRENELLATION AS I FELL, AND...
JUST BELOW THE WINDOW I FELL FROM, THERE WAS A LITTLE HOLE.
THE HOLE LED INTO A PASSAGEWAY BENEATH THE FLOOR WHICH WAS CONNECTED TO THAT TRAP DOOR.
THE SHIFT IN TRAJECTORY FLUNG ME INTO THAT HOLE.

WILD TALK
DON'T .. DON'T YOU EVER SCARE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN-!!
THEN-- THEN-- YOU'RE NOT HURT AT ALL?
SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO S USED IT, TOO.
A SCRAP OF THE LAST VISITOR'S SUIT WAS CAUGHT IN THE PAVING STONES IN THE PASS-AGE, AND TORE LOOSE.
IF YOU'D FALLEN TO YOUR DEATH .. AND IT WAS MY FAULT I..
IF.. IF YOU'D FALLEN ..
MERE-DIANNA

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE..!
THIS IS FINE-QUALITY FABRIC, ISN'T IT...
MERE-DIANNA, THIS IS HOW YOUR PARTNER IN YOUR LOVERS'-SUICIDE SAVED HIMSELF.
AND QUITE SKILL-FULLY MADE IT SEEM AS THOUGH YOU HAD COMM-ITTED SUICIDE ALONE.
..DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT HIM?
...
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER HIS FACE...!
I WONDER IF HE MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO BECAME JACK THE RIPPER FOR MY SAKE PERHAPS THROUGH A SENSE OF GUILT...
BUT HIS FACE HIS VOICE EVEN--I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING
..I CAN'T REMEMBER ..!

MERE-DIANNA..!
ON THE OTHER HAND, I CAN REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL ABOUT DR JEZEBEL..
IT'S ALL THAT I CAN REMEMBER. THE THINGS THAT WERE DONE IN THAT SECRET HOUSE, THAT OLD DESERTED RUIN..!
DON'T TOUCH ME, CAIN!
I... YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN..
BECAUSE I'M A MONSTER THAT CONSUMED YOUR FIANCEE IN ORDER TO LIVE!
I'VE LEFT THE DOCTOR NOW, SO..
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE UNTIL I RETURN TO BEING A CORPSE..
AND BESIDES,
I CAN NEVER LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS SHE DID.

I HATE OBSTINATE MEN.
YOU NEEDN'T TRAIL AFTER ME LIKE A LOVESICK FOOL.
YOU'RE JUST ONE OF THE MANY MEN SURROUNDING ME.
I CAN'T LOOK BACK..
I CAN'T...
NOT A SOUND-- I CAN'T MAKE A SOUND.
IF I WALK AWAY LIKE THIS, IT'LL ALL BE OVER WITH!
OR, OR HE'LL NOTICE..
DON'T LET YOUR SHOULDERS TREMBLE, MEREDIANNA..
FARE-WELL,
CAIN.

I CAN'T LET HIM NOTICE...!
EMMELINE
I'M SORRY...

SUCH GUILT STAINED
AS WE ARE–
IT CAN'T GO.
YES
I KNOW
YES
SINCE THE
MOMENT
WE TOUCHED
KNOW BETTER...
I'VE
WANTED
TO GAZE
AT YOUR
SMILE.
I'VE
WANTED
TO
WHY IS IT THAT
SUCH SLIGHT,
INCONSEQUENTIAL
WISHES CANNOT
BE GRANTED?

OH, GOD..
JUST THIS.. ONLY THIS MUCH..
DESPITE IT ALL, WHY CAN'T WE BE HAPPY..?

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...?
THAT CHAP WILL'S BEEN MAKING SURE TO EXCHANGE MY MEALS WITH A SERVANT'S BEFORE THEY'RE BROUGHT HERE
AND EVER SINCE THEN, GRADUALLY, MY MIND HAS BEEN CLEARING UP
IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEBODY'S BEEN SLIPPING DRUGS INTO MY MEALS, DOESN'T IT?
I WONDER, LIZA---
WAS IT YOU?

IT SEEMED TO BE LOSING ITS EFFECT LITTLE BY LITTLE, AND. YOUR REPRIEVE IS ALMOST OVER, AND...I WAS IMPATIENT, SO. EVERY DAY, IN YOUR FOOD...!
BUT...IT WAS A LOVE POTION GIVEN TO ME BY A SORCERER YOUR AUNT KNOWS..
I...I KNOW THE THINGS I'VE DONE ARE UNTHINKABLE
BUT I WAS HAPPY YOU HADN'T GRANTED ME THE GIFT OR YOUR LOVE BUT
YOU WERE. MINE ALONE, MY OBEDIENT, DARLING CHILD UNTIL MISS MEDDY APPEARED
LIZA...!
DON'T YOU CARE? LIZA, THE ANCIENT WITCH AND THE SORCERER WHO MANIPULATED YOU SAID IT WAS AN APHRODISIAC AND A FLYING POTION, DIDN'T THEY?
WHEN A MAN IS MADE TO TAKE LARGE DOSES OF SUBSTANCES LIKE THAT -- IN MOST OF THE CASES, HE BECOMES PARALYZED, HE GOES MAD
OR HE DIES.
BUT WHAT THEY USED WAS A COMPOUND OF HALLUCINOGENS AND NARCOTICS LIKE ACONITE, BELLADONNA, OPIUM.
PITIFUL, ISN'T IT? TO GO THAT FAR BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO MONOPOLIZE ME

AMID SUCH BLIND, UNFEELING PRESSURE, IN ORDER TO STAY AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS AT THAT SCHOOL, WHICH GATHERED THE BRIGHTEST MINDS OF THE NATION,
I WAS TOLD ALL MY LIFE, "FOR THE GOOD OF THE FAMILY, YOU HAVE TO BECOME A MAN WORTHY OF THE TITLE OF MARQUIS," LIKE IT WAS SOME MAGIC INCANTATION-- IF EVER MADE A SINGLE MISTAKE, IT WAS UNFORGIVABLE!
I PUSHED MYSELF UNTIL I BLED
MASTER GILFORD ---!
THERE WAS NEVER, EVER A MOMENT'S REST FROM THE PRESSURE ON MY SOUL
IT WAS TOO CRUEL HONESTLY
G--
WHY HAVE YOU MADE ME INTO A PITIFUL, CONTEMPTIBLE WRETCH LOCKED UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?!
AND DESPITE IT ALL-- YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERY SINGLE THING I'VE EVER WORKED FOR!
YOU KNOW, UZA, I
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE
!
DO YOU THINK NOTHING OF RUINING A MAN'S WHOLE LIFE ?

I KILLED WILL AND THE MARQUIS!
IT WAS FOR YOU! ONLY FOR YOU...!
BUT ..
B-
YOU WERE CLINGING TO ME IN TEARS, SOBBING, SO OFTEN THAT I...I...
DON'T MISJUDGE YOUR POSITION
DID YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT A SERVANT COULD BE MY EQUAL?
YES ..
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN QUITE USEFUL TO ME. BUT T DOESN'T EXTEND TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
BOTH YOU AND THAT GIRL..
REALLY, WOMEN ARE SUCH SHAMELESS CREATURES.
YOU'LL PAY ME WITH THE REST OF YOUR OWN LIFE ..
I WILL HAVE RECOMPENSE FOR IT, YOU KNOW ..
FOR THE LOSS OF MY FUTURE FROM HERE ON..

THIS IS..
MY PROPERTY THE MAIN HOUSE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GARDEN
THIS IS ANOTHER HOUSE, WHERE PEOPLE RARELY COME.
MAKE SURE TO DRY OFF WELL, MERE-DIANNA.
LATER I'LL HAVE ANOTHER SET OF CLOTHES BROUGHT FOR YOU
WHAT ABOUT YOU CAIN? WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, SOAKED THROUGH LIKE THAT?
AT THE ROTTER-DALES' HOUSE, MERRY WILL BE WORRYING
AND ALSO, THERE ARE .. VARIOUS THINGS STILL TO BE DECIDED.
CAIN
SNIP

I PROMISE I'LL COME BACK.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU ACTUALLY ELISE CARSON?
YOU .IT CAN'T BE.. RATHER THAN MEREDIANNA,
THE VANISHED MAID, ELISE CARSON, HAD A BURN-SCAR SHAPED LIKE A FLOWER PETAL ON HER LEFT SHOULDER
CAIN. .?
THIS SCAR. SHAPED LIKE A FLOWER PETAL..

AND MADE IT SEEM AS THOUGH SHE HAD LIVED INSTEAD
IF YOU'RE ELISE, DELILAH HAS GIVEN YOU A FACE EXACTLY LIKE MEREDIANNA'S THROUGH A SURGICAL OPERATION ERASED YOUR MEMORIES.
CAIN...!
THEY TRICKED YOU INTO THINKING IT WAS FOR YOUR SAKE, AND CAUSED JACK THE RIPPER'S UTTERLY MEANINGLESS MURDERS!
SO AFTER ALL, THE WOMAN WHO FELL FROM THE TOWER AND WAS KILLED BY THE MAN WHO WAS HER "PARTNER" IN THE DOUBLE SUICIDE..
AND THE CORPSE WHO SLEEPS IN THAT GRAVE-- IT TRULY IS MEREDIANNA'S BODY!
I'M NOT NOT A MONSTER.. AFTER ALL?
THEN THAT MEANS I..I'M HUMAN?
EVEN IF I DON'T GO BACK TO THE DOCTOR, I WON'T DIE?
BUT IF..
WOULD YOU HAVE LOVED ME..?
EVEN IF I HAD THE FACE AND BODY OF THIS "ELISE"...
OF COURSE. NO MATTER WHAT TYPE OF SATANIC MEDICINES DELILAH CLAIMS TO POSSESS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESURRECT THE DEAD!

NO MATTER WHAT FORM YOU WEAR, I'LL STILL RECOGNIZE YOU...
YOU ARE YOUR-SELF
AND IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE YOURSELF THAT I LOVE YOU.
NO MATTER WHAT I LOOK LIKE...?
EVEN IF THIS FACE ISN'T REALLY MINE.
.YES.
WHY IS IT WHEN I LOOK INTO THOSE BLUE EYES OF YOURS, I FEEL SO NOSTA-LGIC AS THOUGH COMPLETELY AT EASE
YOUR EYES REMIND ME OF SOME-ONE'S
IF I CAN STILL SEE YOUR EYES, I'LL KNOW IT'S YOU.
I WOULD DISCOVER..
IF YOU WERE A WILD ROSE,
ONE SINGLE, PERFECT PEARL OF PALE MORNING DEW AMIDST YOUR PETALS..

NOW WE'LL NEVER LEARN WHAT THE MURDERED MARQUIS WANTED!
ROTTERDALE HOUSE
HOW COULD YOU? OUR SON, MASTER GILFORD, IS STILL ALIVE!
SO WE OUGHT TO GIVE THE MARQUIS-DOM TO GEORGE HERE!
WELL, I'LL BE OFF NOW.
I PROMISE YOU I'LL COME BACK HERE, BACK TO WHERE YOU ARE
IT'S THE SAME EVERY-WHERE ...
HAH-- GILFORD YOU SAID?
..MM-HMM.
.... HOW TIRE-SOME!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
AUNT, THAT WHOLE MATTER NEEDS A LOT MORE INVE-STIGATION!
I KNOW!
IT'S SAID THAT HIS MIND HAD REVERTED TO CHILDHOOD, AND HE WAS EXPELLED!
I'VE HEARD THAT GILFORD HAD TO LEAVE THE UNIVERSITY FOR SOME REASON, AND UNDER VERY SUS-PICIOUS CIRCUM-STANCES ...

DO YOU THINK AN UNSTABLE CHARACTER LIKE THAT HAS REALLY GOT THE QUALIFIC-ATIONS TO BECOME THE NEXT MARQUIS POTTERDALE?
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT ME?
HA HA HA
GILFORD-!
I BEG YOUR PARDON PLEASE.. FOR A TIME MY PHYSICAL CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN IMPAIRED, AND I THOUGHT IT BEST TO RETIRE FOR A BIT, BUT I'VE RECOVERED NOW.
AND TOTALLY AS DE FROM THAT, MY ESTEEMED RELATIVES ---
TO BEHAVE IN SUCH AN UNSIGHTLY FASHION IN FRONT OF COUNT HARGREAVES, PLEASE, RESTRAIN YOURSELVES

NOW, THEN-- IF I SHOW YOU PROOF OF THE IDENTITY OF THE CRIMINAL WHO MURD- ERED MY FATHER, WILL YOU BELIEVE IT?
CALM YOURSELF GEORGE
--THAT'S RIDICULOUS! ACCORDING TO THE DETECTIVE'S REPORT, THEY DEFINITELY HAD YOU LOCKED UP IN THE CELLAR..
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE TAKEN THERE BEHIND DR. HARRISON'S BACK! IF YOU BELIEVE A WORD FROM THIS--THIS--
CLICK CLACK CLICK CLACK
WHAT?!
THE CRIMINAL IN QUES- TION IS.
RIGHT OVER THERE
CLICK CLACK CLICK CLACK
SFX = CREAEAK

LIZA?!
WAS EVERY BIT OF THIS DUE TO YOUR OWN PLANNING,
YOU'RE MINE NOW
MINE ALONE
MASTER GILFORD DON'T EVER LET GO OF ME AGAIN!
MARQUIS GILFORD MORGAN POTTER-DALE?
LIZA GAVE HERSELF A DOSE WHICH HAS PUT HER INTO A WITLESS STATE
EVEN WITHOUT HER CONFESSION IT WOULD BE BEST TO SEND HER TO A HOSPITAL
GIVEN THAT MUCH EVIDENCE, IT'S MADE EVEN GEORGE SHUT HIS MOUTH.
I EVEN FOUND THE BLOOD-STAINED WEAPON IN HER ROOM.

BOTH OF US ONLY LOOKED OUT FOR OUR OWN SELF-INTERESTS. WE NEVER OFFERED EACH OTHER A HELPING HAND EVEN THOUGH WE WERE GIVEN DOZENS OF CHANCES
EMMELINE AND I. TRULY, WE ARE VERY MUCH ALIKE
YOU MISUNDER-STAND ME, CAIN
IF SHE HAD BEEN THE HEIR AND I THE YOUNGEST SISTER I WONDER IF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND STATE OF AFFAIRS MIGHT HAVE BEEN OTHERWISE
MERRY-WEATHER--
BUT THE PERSON YOU WERE IN THAT CELLAR IS UNDENIABLY A PART OF YOU.
INTO THE MEEK OBEDIENT, PURE-HEARTED BOY WHO SAT BESIDE YOU DRAWING WITH A PENCIL...
YOU'RE JUST LIKE LIZA YOU WANT TO MAKE ME INTO THE PERSON YOU WANT TO SEE.
THAT WAS JUST A DRUG-INDUCED ILLUSION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT "GILFORD" WHOM YOU LOVED WAS NEVER REAL!

I'M NOT LIKE THE REST OF THE WOMEN AROUND YOU. JUST A CHILD
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU SAID YOURSELF?
YOU'RE WRONG, YOU GREAT FOOL.
BUT NOW HE'S DEAD, AND YOU'VE KILLED HIM YOURSELF...!
THE REAL YOU, TREMBLING WITH THE NEED TO BE RESCUED!
THAT WAS THE SPIRIT OF THE CHILD YOU ONCE WERE, THE SPIRIT THAT HAD BEEN CRUSHED UNDER THE BURDEN OF YOUR PARENTS' SELF-INTERESTED EXPECTATIONS AND AN ARISTOCRATIC NAME LOCKED AWAY AND DRIVEN OUT
SLAP!
WHY, YOU--!
HMPH. JUST LIKE EMMELINE AND LIZA, THOSE FRIVOLOUS CHITS--IF YOU'D HAVE THOUGH AHEAD JUST A LITTLE MORE,
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE UNMISTAKABLY A FOUL-MOUTHED BRAT AND A MERE COUNT'S BASTARD DAUGHTER --
YOU COULD STILL HAVE BECOME A MARQUIS WIFE, YOU KNOW?

MERRY-WEATHER--!
THERE'S NO POINT IN GIVING YOUR HAND...
...TO A JERK LIKE HIM.
!
SEEMS LIKE YOU STILL DON'T GET IT--IT'S NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE, CA.N.
UNLIKE YOU, I'VE HAD BOTH STUDIES AND SPORTS THOROUGHLY DRIVEN INTO ME, AND I'M A MAN NOW--
YOUR BODY-GUARD, IS HE..?
LET ME GO I HAVEN'T TAUGHT HIM H S LESSON YET, AFTER ALL.

GILFORD...!
WH- WHAT IS THAT?!
IN THE PHOTO- GRAPH OF MERE- DIANNA'S LOVER--!
THAT RING-- I'M SURE OF IT--
!
ACK--!
OWW~!
OH!
MY FOOT... THAT HURTS ...!
OW
OW...
AH...
AHHH ..

LEAVE ME ALONE! I JUST WANT TO GO CRY QUIETLY BY MYSELF
THIS IS EVEN WORSE THAN LAST TIME OSCAR THAT BIG OAF--
H-HEY, YOU...
PUT ME OOWN! I CAN WALK BY MY-SELF!
IF YOU THINK I'M A KID, I'LL SHOW YOU!
KYAAA-!
TMTOH
YO--! YOU OKAY, MERRY?
LOOKING FOR EAR 'N TO CRACK OPEN
LOOKS LIKE IT'S SPRAINED, DOESN'T IT...
BETTER GET SOME ICE ON THAT SOON.
DAZED
RIGHT THEN.
YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME OR SOME-THING? THERE I WAS THINKING "I'M GONNA SAVE HER," AND YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU'RE SUCH A HOT BABE YOU'VE GOTTA FIGHT ME OFF WITH WEAPONRY SOMEHOW?
GIRLS ARE SUPPOSED TO KEEP STILL WHEN MEN COME TO RESCUE 'EM AND GUARD OVER 'EM!
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO TURN INTO SOME GREAT EVIL-MINDED LECHER OVER THE SIGHT OF A LITTLE GIRL WHO RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND TWISTED HER ANKLE, EXCUSE ME FOR BREA-THING!
DO YOU EVER SHUT UP?!
YOU LITTLE DOLT!

HEY.. MY SHOE WENT FLYING SOME-WHERE
MIGHT I ASK YOU TO KINDLY PUT IT BACK ON FOR ME,
BARON GABRIEL, SIR?
WEIRDO!
.....
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE KINDA RUDE..
I GET IT AL-READY
UNTIL I BECOME THE SORT OF LADY WHO HEARS A MAN SAY "PLEASE PERMIT ME TO PROTECT YOU", I'LL BE CAREFUL.
KIND OF STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LECTURE, THERE WERE SOME BOLD-TYPE ITEMS..
YOU'RE 10 YEARS AND 3 AND A HALF MONTHS EARLY FOR THAT ONE
AWW!
OOH, A PICTURE! SHOW ME!
CUT IT OUT!
IS IT NAUGHTY?
NO WAY!
SHE THINKS I'M A PERVERT!
SURE I DO.
SHE'S ALWAYS W TH ME HERE, IN THIS WATCH..
HEY, OSCAR, HAVEN'T YOU GOT A LADY WHOM YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PROTE-CTING?

I KILLED HER, YOU SEE ..
A LOVELY SLENDER THROAT.., SHE WAS A CAPRICIOUS, BEAUTIFUL GIRL...
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
LOO-OONG BLONDE HAIR, JUST LIKE YOURS ..
"WAS", YOU SA D.. DID YOU GET JILTED, OSCAR?
NOPE... ..
SHE'S DEAD NOW.

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EARLIER I SHOUTED AT CAIN, BLAMING HIM FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO EMMELINE
BUT THOSE WERE THINGS WHICH OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN SAID ABOUT ME.
IT'S NO LIE.
I'M A COWARD
KILLED ?
IT'S JUST THAT THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND HERE WAS SO DEPRESSING AND SINCE I HADN'T BEEN IN CONTACT FOR A WHILE. I WONDER IF I SHOULD GO SEE HER NOW...
AHHHH-- I JUST KEEP REMEMBERING ALL THOSE THINGS ABOUT HER...
SO I HAULED OFF AND ATTACKED HIM WITH IT INSTEAD.
YEAH, I'M JUST A COWARD, AREN'T I
YEAH

"GO SEE HER" A VISIT TO HER GRAVE?
YOU WANNA COME TOO?
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE RIGHT AT THE MOMENT, DO YOU?
YOU PROBABLY JUST WANT TO GO CRY BY YOURSELF
OR ELSE ARE YOU SCARED? HANGING AROUND WITH A MURDERER LIKE ME..
HE HE NOTICED!
NO WAY!
YOU'RE JUST THE MUSCLE-BOUND, BLOOD-NEVER-MAKES-IT-TO-YOUR-BRAIN, "MR NO-DELICACY" OSCAR!
You're saying this stuff while standing on my a... coat?
THERE'S JUST NO WAY YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO THINK LIKE 'IF I DO IT THIS WAY HERE AND NOW...' AND COME UP WITH A SPONTANEOUS, WELL-PLANNED, PERFECTLY EXECUTED CRIME!
And besides, you're too nice a guy to have thoughts like that!
Doesn't that hurt your pride?

SHALL WE BE OFF, LADY MERRY-WEATHER?
SURE!
SO, IF YOU TRUST A GUY LIKE ME
MM-HMM!
YOU KILLED HER AND MADE IT LOOK AS THOUGH HER DEATH HAD BEEN A SUICIDE!
AH. THERE WAS A GIRL WITH THAT NAME AROUND WASN'T THERE? I DON'T REMEMBER HER VERY WELL, BUT
MEREDI-ANNA, YOU SAID!?
WERE YOU MEREDI-ANNA'S LOVER!?
THAT RING IS...!

HEH. INTERESTING... KEEP THIS IN MIND, NOW
I'LL STAKE MY VERY NAME ON IT
OH, GIVE ME A BREAK! YOU'RE CALLING ME A MURDER-ER THIS TIME?
ON SUCH A PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR EVI-DENCE?
YOU'RE THE SORT OF MAN WHO WOULD SELL STRANGERS' SOULS TO SATAN HIMSELF IF IT SUITED YOUR OWN PURPOSES.
YOU'VE JUST FLUNG DOWN YOUR GAUNTLET* TO THE MARQUIS OF POTTER-DALE
*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE FLINGING ONE'S GAUNTLET DOWN IS AN OLD MEDIEVAL CUSTOM USED TO CHALLENGE A RIVAL TO A DUEL (SEE NOTES)
UNFOR-GIVABLE!!
UNH!?
HMPH

!?
WHAT THE THAT WHISPER JUST NOW..!?
THE SOUND OF A VOICE I REMEMBER SO CLEARLY
PNOIS
PNOIS
PNOIS
I FEEL SICK, I'M GOING HOME!
MASTER CAIN''
WHERE'S MERRY GONE NOW?
ACCORDING TO A NOTE SHE LEFT IN HER ROOM, SHE'S GONE OUT WITH OSCAR FOR ABT

GOOD AFTER-NOON. THIS IS BARON GABRIEL'S RESIDENCE..
..I SEE. MY YOUNGER SISTER IS VISITING YOU UNDER LORD OSCAR'S SUPERVISION.
.....
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS AT THE MOMENT..
THERE IS NO ONE BY THE NAME OF OSCAR IN THIS HOUSE-HOLD.
COULD YOU HAVE BEEN MIS-TAKEN?
..WELL, THEN
THE PARTY THAT WENT TO SEARCH FOR MEREDI-ANNA AND THEN WHEN THE MURDERER WAS ROUSED, OSCAR HAD UNEXPECTEDLY VANISHED..
OSCAR WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED THE NIGHT EMMELINE WAS KILLED. /
"OSCAR, THERE'S BLOOD ON YOUR SLEEVE"
"YEAH, LAST NIGHT WAS KINDA ROUGH.."

BUT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ONLY A RUSE!
CERTAINLY, SIR OSCAR IS A TALL MAN, BUT HE'S NOT LEFT-HANDED!
IT MIGHT BE THAT HE WAS DOING THINGS LIKE EATING AND SUCH WITH THE HAND HE WAS UNACCUSTOMED TO USING
EH?
CAIN?
WHICH PIECE OF THE PUZZLE HAS SLIPPED THROUGH MY GRASP NOW?
THAT JUST NOW SOMETHING
..IT CAN'T BE!

I'M GOING TOO! I'M THE ONE WHO KNOWS THAT OLD RUIN THE BEST!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! THE DOCTOR HASN'T BEEN CAPTURED YET!
EHH!?
MY SISTER S VAN.SHED W TH A MAN WHO COULD BE JACK THE RIPPER!
TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THAT ABAN - DONED HOUSE YOU SPOKE OF!!
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I! PLEASE, TAKE ME W.TH YOU!
IT'S JUST THE SAME FOR YOU, HE S THE ONE WHO WANTS TO TAKE YOUR EYES!
I'VE DECIDED! I M NOT A DOLL ANY MORE..
MEREDI- ANNA..!
I'M GOING TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU.. THIS IS MY FIGHT TOO!

PRACTICE HOW TO DRAW THE DAGGER OUT OF THE CANE.
THE PLACE WE'RE GOING FROM HERE IS JACK THE RIPPER'S LAIR
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND YOURSELF BY YOURSELF
LET'S GO!
MASTER CAIN!! LET ME.
RIFF ON THE ONE-IN-A-THOUSAND CHANCE THAT MERRY COMES BACK ON HER OWN STAY AT THE ROTTERDALES HOUSE AND AWAIT MY ORDERS!
I'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON!!
MASTER CAIN..!
MASTER CAIN'S CUFF-LINK IS.

WILD 8 TALK
DOCTOR

...EH.....?

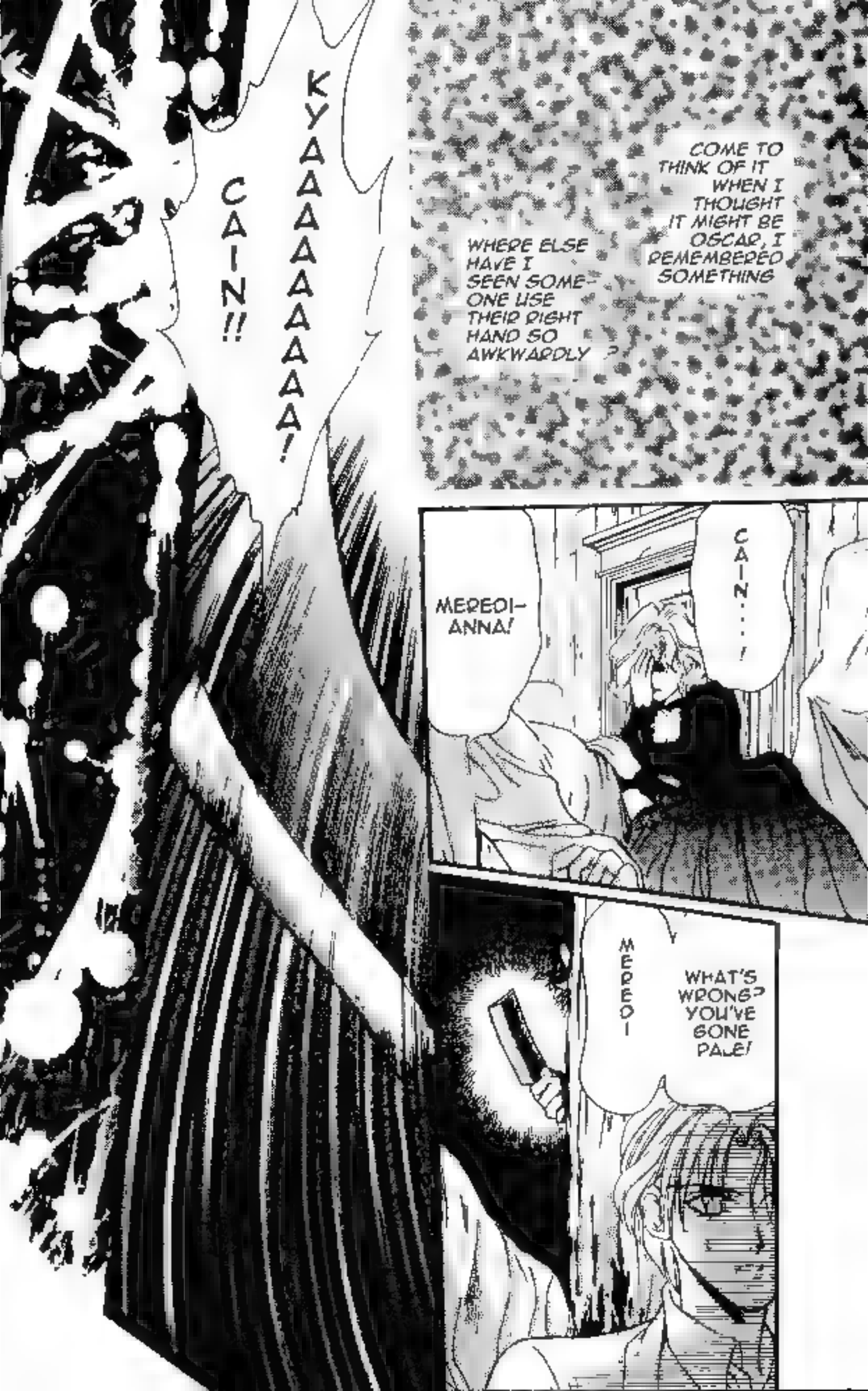
ER..
Y-YEAH!
FINALLY IS IT WORTH THE ANTI-CIPATION?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE COUNT IS HEADED HERE..
AH, HAVE YOU SEEN THAT WE HAVE GUESTS CASSIAN?
WHAT IS IT, CASSIAN?
DID HE JUST SAY HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR THIS?
AND BESIDES... HIS FACE JUST THEN... I DIDN'T EVEN THINK HE WAS THE SAME PERSON

N-NOTHING JUST.. IF YOU LOVE ANIMALS THAT MUCH I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE OKAY WITH GOING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL AND STUFF
WITH THE EXPERIMENTS ON THE ANIMALS AND ALL THAT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M A DOCTOR WHO PRACTICES ON HUMANS AREN'T I?
BECAUSE OF THAT, IT'S BETTER IF I CAN PRACTICE ON HUMANS
ISN'T IT BETTER IF I MAKE ALL THE MISTAKES ON THINGS LIKE HUMANS, WHICH ARE LOWER THAN THE ANIMALS?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM THE DOCTOR!
I'M SCARED SPITLESS THAT IF I SCREW UP, I'M DEAD MEAT.. IF I'M NOT CAREFUL..
I'M ACTUALLY GLAD I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE THINKS...
I CAME HERE TO KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, TO USE HIM AS A STEPPING STONE BUT.. HOW CAN HE BE SO CRUEL TO THOSE PEOPLE, AND YET SHOW SUCH ANGELIC KINDNESS TO OTHER LIVING THINGS?
AREN'T I ONLY HERE TO SERVE THE DEMON WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS!?

HERE IS IT?
LET'S GO IN!
DON'T LET YOURSELF GET SEPARATED FROM ME, MEDEA-ANNA!
WHAT IS THIS? THIS STRANGE SMELL...
IT'S COMING FROM THIS ROOM
WHAA
WE'RE GOING IN!
NAUSEATINGLY SWEET

THIS IS THE KEY!!
THESE WERE EMMELINE'S COMRADES..
SO THEN, THIS WAS THE FATE OF ALL THOSE MISSING PEOPLE !?
JACK THE RIPPER?!
CAIN!
!
THIS S.

DON'T MOVE, MEREDI-ANNA'
CAIN...!
I
I FEEL SICK...!!
CHATTER
WHAT THE
BLOOD-SOAKED
A COAT AND HAT, AND ALSO ARE THESE JACK'S SHOES...?
THE HEELS ARE SO THICK AND BESIDES THE FEET THEM-SELVES MUST BE QUITE SMALL
OBVI-OUSLY A TRICK TO MAKE THE WEARER LOOK LARGER!


KYAAAAAAAA!
CAIN!!
WHERE ELSE HAVE I SEEN SOMEONE USE THEIR RIGHT HAND SO AWKWARDLY?
COME TO THINK OF IT WHEN I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE OSCAR, I REMEMBERED SOMETHING
CAIN...!
MEREDI-ANNA!
MEREDI
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE GONE PALE!

MEREDI-
ANNA!!
UNH.
DAMN!
MEREDI-
ANNA!!
WHY.
WHY DID YOU GET IN THE WAY?

IT WAS ALL FOR YOUR SAKE
MEDEDI-ANNA MY PRECIOUS CHILD
A MARK LIKE A BUTTER-FLY!!

IN ORDER TO HIDE THAT SHE WAS LEFT-HANDED SHE SAID THAT SHE'D HURT HER RIGHT HAND...
THAT'S IT! SHE PICKED UP THE POT IN HER RIGHT HAND SO AWKWARDLY, AND DROPPED IT
MEREDIANNA'S MOTHER...!
I COULDN'T FORGIVE HER ONLY HER "
WHY HER ..
WHY? ARE YOU THE ONE WHO KILLED EMMELINE ..?
THIS IS ELSE CARSON, GIVEN A DIFFERENT FACE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS ISN'T YOUR RESURRECTED DAUGHTER, MEREDIANNA ...!
IT CAN'T BE !
LOOK AT HER THIS BURN SCAR SHAPED LIKE A FLOWER PETAL !
LADY EVERETT ! LOOK CLOSELY!
MY CHILD WHO WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS UNBLEMISHED FLOWERS !
THAT WOMAN " SHE ALWAYS SCATTERED THE FLOWERS I GATHERED EVERY DAY TO LAY ON MEREDIANNA'S GRAVE!
SHE CRUSHED THEM UNDER HER FEET "

NO MATTER HOW IRREPLACEABLE NO MATTER HOW YOU YEARN AND BEG.
THEY CAN NEVER COME BACK...!!
THOSE WHO ARE DEAD CAN NEVER BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.. NEVER !!
NO MATTER HOW IT HURTS, YOU HAVE TO FIND THE STRENGTH TO RECOGNIZE THAT !!
BUT NEVER LET YOURSELF FORGET !
LADY EVERETT !
I UNDERSTAND HOW PAINFUL IT IS TO FEEL THIS BUT
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL THIS IS !
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO BUT ENDURE IT !!
FOR US, THE GUILT-STAINED SOULS LEFT BEHIND IN THIS WORLD, THIS IS OUR REASON TO LIVE!!

KYAAA
HAH! DROP YOUR GUN AND PUT YOUR HANDS UP!
IT HURTS ...!
WHO ARE YOU!?
.. CAIN !!
BLOOD
THE BLEEDING HASN'T STOPPED!
.. WHAT?!
THAT BLEEDING CAN NEVER BE STOPPED...

DOCTOR!!
HER BODY HAS ALREADY DIED ONCE, YOU SEE
SINCE HER RESUSCITATED CELLS' GRASP ON LIFE IS EXTREMELY FRAGILE, HER BODY IS UNABLE TO CLOSE THE WOUND
THAT'S WHY SO MUCH BLOOD AND SO MANY INTERNAL ORGANS WERE NEEDED...
FROM THOSE OF THE SAME GENDER THE SAME BLOOD TYPE APPROXI-MATELY THE SAME AGE
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! I'VE SEEN THAT SCAR!
I KNOW SHE'S REALLY ELISE CARSON!
SCAR...?
AH, YOU MEAN THAT THING...?
!
WHA...?

BECAUSE JUST FOR A MOMENT, YOU SAW A DREAM OF HAPPINESS TOGETHER WITH HER DIDN'T YOU?
THAT SWEET INTERVAL WHERE THERE WAS A LOVERS' FUTURE FOR YOU. I GAVE YOU THE GIFT OF LETTING YOU EXPERIENCE A TIME LIKE THAT.
IT WAS QUITE A FABRI-CAT ON, WASN'T IT..
DO YOU UNDER-STAND ?
IT'S...
IT'S GONE...!!
SHE IS UNMIS-TAKABLY MEREDI-ANNA..
THE DEADLY DOLL I MADE
AHHH ...!!
WHY DID YOU PUT THAT MARK ON HER ? WHY WOULD YOU BOTHER?
THEN ..
THEN!

I WANT YOU TO KNOW
AFTER YOU'VE GIVEN EVERY-THING UP TO THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY, WHAT KIND OF HELL SHALL I THRUST YOU INTO NEXT ..?
IS THAT
THE DOLL TALKS A LOT, DOESN'T SHE
I... I'D WANTED TO CUT ALL YOUR STRINGS..
IS THAT WHY YOU MADE ME FUR OUS AND SENT ME RUNNING BACK TO WHERE CAIN WAS ..?
N NOOO ! DON'T TOUCH ME!!
POOR THING YOU'VE GOTTEN SO PALE
IT'S BECAUSE, GRADUALLY, YOU'LL BEGIN TO LOSE YOUR-SELF TO THE HUNGER AGAIN, WON'T YOU, MEREDI-ANNA...
ALL THIS TIME, HAVE I JUST BEEN YOUR MAR O-NETTE!?

I'D RATHER DIE
THAN LET CAIN SEE ME LIKE THAT !!
SO YOU SAY, BUT
HOW ABOUT IT? CAIN HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A WAY TO SAVE HER?
EVEN ONE SINGLE CHANCE
!
NO
THE TRUTH IS THIS MAN !!
AND THE PART THAT I'VE BEEN INTO THE
NOW
THE SECRET ARTS GIVEN TO ME BY YOUR FATHER CAIN
I'VE TRIED TO EXPERIMENT WITH A WAY FOR MY DEADLY DOLL TO BE ABLE TO KEEP LIVING WITHOUT NEEDING ME TO MAKE THAT FOR HER BUT
STILL, NEVER MIND THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE GIFT OF MY SAVING HER LIFE

IF YOU'LL GIVE THEM TO ME, HERE AND NOW..
THOSE GOLDEN EYES OF YOURS..
BOTH OF MY EYES..
THE PROOF OF MY CURSED BLOOD. THIS GOLDEN CURSE.
YOU MUSTN'T
TO INTEND TO DO SUCH A TERRIBLE, ABSURD THING !!
CAIN...! MASTER

THE ONLY WOMAN WHO WASN'T BLOOD KIN WHOM I'VE FELT THAT I COULD LOVE !
FROM THE FIRST MOMENT MEREDIANNA CAME INTO MY HANDS, MY FIRST LOVE
THE FEELING THAT I WOULD NEVER AGAIN SEE THROUGH THESE EYES
BUT
THAT BLESSED MOMENT WHEN WE WERE HOLDING EACH OTHER.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT
EVEN THOUGH WHEN WE MET SHE'D ALREADY DIED !
FINE
EVEN THOUGH
DO AS YOU LIKE.

IF ONLY I HADN'T LEFT YOUR SIDE FOR A MOMENT
MASTER CAIN!!
NOOOO! STOP!!

AS LONG AS MY LIFE
BELONGS TO THE ONE I LOVE
STOP!!
THIS IS FINE
赤 Mark of the Red Ram
END

I WON'T LET CAIN BE HURT BECAUSE OF ME
DOC-TOR
I'M NOT A DOLL ANYMORE
THIS TIME I CONTROL MY LIFE MYSELF
BUT...
WHAT YOU WANT IS YOUR OWN VICTORY, GIVEN THROUGH HIS SUFFER-ING
IT'S NOT JUST THAT YOU WANT CAIN'S EYES, IS IT...
A MOMENT AGO... THAT POWER I SHOULD HAVE LOST IT RETURNED, JUST FOR A MOMENT, AND I COULD SEE INTO YOUR HEART...!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE SET FREE FROM THAT SUF-FERING, ISN'T IT?
cough cough
I DE-FUSE
FLUTTER

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ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST,
BEGONE,
I WON'T LET YOU LAY A FINGER
THOU UNDEAD SHADE.
I RETURN THEE FROM WHENCE THOU CAME
ON A SINGLE HAIR OF HIS. .

IN THEIR MIDST, I WOULD FIND THAT SINGLE PRECIOUS FLOWER WHICH IS YOU
NO MATTER WHAT FORM YOU TAKE,
EVEN IF YOU WERE ONLY ONE
OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NEVER-FADING WILD ROSES.
I WISH I COULD'VE MET YOU WHILE I WAS
ALIVE
I
CAIN

NO.
NO../
IN THE FIRST INSTANT WE TOUCHED EACH OTHER, I FELL IN LOVE..
I DIDN'T OFFER HIM SUCH A SACRIFICE JUST TO LET IT END LIKE THIS!
AND I'LL NEVER LET GO OF YOU AGAIN
IT'S WRONG../

YOU'LL GO UP IN THE SAME SEA OF FIRE WHICH IS ABOUT TO DESTROY ALL THE EVIDENCE FOR ME
AH---!
COME NOW- IF YOU DON'T PUT AN END TO THIS TOUCHING FAREWELL AND RUN,
MASTER CAIN, IT'S TOO DANGER- OUS-
QUICK- LY, THIS WAY
!
!

FINE
I WON-DER
WHAT THE--
COME --
WHE-THER, PER-HAPS,
BE MY GUEST, CAIN
I MAY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MO-MENT AFTER ALL...

DAMN IT YOU LITTLE BRAT!
...!
UNLIKE MY GODDAMNED FACE WANTS YOU TO THINK, I'M AN OLD MAN OF 35! DON'T BE SUCH A BLOODY NUISANCE!
THE ONLY THING I WANT IS TO GET MY HANDS ON A BODY THAT'S GROWN UP. AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO DO IT! YOU GOT IT? BEFORE I LET YOU GO AND GET YOURSELF KILLED THAT STUPIDLY YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME THAT BODY!
WHOA IF I FAIL THAT

COME ON, MOVE IT!
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND? SHE GAVE UP HER LIFE TO PRO-TECT YOU!
DO YOU WANT THAT SACR-IFICE TO BE WAST-ED?
SIR, WE MUST GO— QUICK-LY—
I DON'T CARE!
MASTER CA N!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
GO BY YOUR-SELF— I... I WANT TO BE WITH HER.

COME ON, MOVE IT!
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND? SHE GAVE UP HER LIFE TO PRO-TECT YOU!
DO YOU WANT THAT SACR-IFICE TO BE WAST-ED?
SIR, WE MUST GO— QUICK-LY—
I DON'T CARE!
MASTER CA N!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
GO BY YOUR-SELF— I... I WANT TO BE WITH HER.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU AND ARE WAITING FOR YOU?
IF... IF YOU THROW ME AWAY, IF YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND, I
EVEN ME
AM

THE FIRE
T NG THE
SHATTER INTO A THOUSAND PIECES
NASH. HE?
HANDED MAN WHO
MAJORED IN MEDICINE

WILD TALK
IN HIS LEFT HAND, HE WAS CLUTCHING AN AUTOPSY-KNIFE WITH BLOOD CLINGING TO IT
AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE, HE WAS WEARING A HAT AND COAT OF THE SAME STYLE DESCRIBED BY EYEWITNESSES, HE WAS WANDERING AROUND WHITECHAPEL, STAGGERING ON HIS FEET
AT THAT TIME, HE HAD ALREADY LOST WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE REMAINED OF HIS SANITY.
IN HIS HOUSE, HIDDEN BENEATH THE FLOORBOARDS, THERE WAS A HUGE COLLECTION OF NEWS CLIPPINGS ABOUT THE "JACK THE RIPPER" INCIDENTS
- EVEN THOUGH THE CASE HAD GROWN COLD, AND MANY DAYS HAD PASSED SINCE THEY WERE PUBLISHED
THEY ALSO FOUND THE BODY OF HIS OWN MOTHER

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER WAS AMBIGUOUS BUT IT WAS RUMORED THAT HE HAD QUITE AN OEDIPAL COMPLEX, KEPT WORLDLY WOMEN AT A DISTANCE, AND HATED THEM.
AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE CLARENCE HAD LAST WORKED, THERE WERE RUMORS THAT HE HAD HAD A HOMO-SEXUAL AFFAIR WITH A MENTALLY HANDICAPPED YOUNG MAN AND THAT HE WOULD INEVITABLY BE REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION
!
CAIN!
BECAUSE I .. I BELONG TO THE PEOPLE WHO CALL MY NAME, SO..
.. SO THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK, REALLY. UNCLE NEIL..
AND THE TRUTH..
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD, YOU GO AND VANISH ON ME?!
THE CASE OF "JACK THE RIPPER," THAT TERROR WHICH HAD ENSNARED THE HEART OF LONDON, WAS THUS GIVEN A RESOLUTION
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LIKE A SPOILED LITTLE BOY—
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER! IT'S INDECENT ..
UNCLE
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH SUCH AN INCORRIGIBLE YOUNG FOOL?

WHAAAAAT?!
HE TOLD YOU I'M NOT A PART OF THE BARON'S FAMILY? EVEN NOW?
THAT BLOODY-MINDED OLD COOSER!
I'm gonna kill him!
Didn't I even write him a memo and everything...?
that's why I said I was going to
BLOODY HELL MY COVER'S COMPLETELY SHOT NOW...
leaving a guy completely hung out on a limb in an emergency...
WHAT SORT OF EXPLANATION ARE YOU GOING TO OFFER ME FOR THIS ONE?
JESUS H CHRIST ON A STICK
YOU'RE GOING TO...
...YOU'RE GOING TO WRINKLE MY SUIT, YOU KNOW.!
WAS LEFT BEHIND IN THE MIST
FOR ME, Y'KNOW... I'M JUST THE SORT OF GUY WHO GOES FOR A GIRL'S BODY MORE THAN HER FACE..
The truth is...
WHAT THE HELL?!

AT THE END OF IT, SHE TURNED ON ME WITH THIS THING ABOUT "YOU'RE JUST AN IDIOT WHO NEEDS TO BE GENTLER WITH A WOMAN WHOSE PUT HERSELF INTO YOUR HANDS"
WE NEVER DID ANY-THING BUT FIGHT
SHE WAS A KNOCKOUT BUT WELL THE STRONGEST EMOTION SHE HAD WAS HER STUCK UP PRIDE
BUT YOU KNOW, THAT SKINNY FIANCEE HE STUCK ME WITH I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE STUFF SHE WAS INTERESTED IN
AND THEN SHE SPOTTED ME ACROSS THE ROAD
ONE DAY WHEN I WAS OUT UNTIL MIDNIGHT PLAY-ING AROUND WITH A BUNCH OF WOMEN LIKE USUAL SHE WENT LOOKING FOR ME BY HERSELF
BUT SHE WAS THE KIND OF PERSON FOR WHOM ALL THAT HAUGHT-NESS WAS JUST LONELI-NESS TURNED INSIDE OUT
AFTER THAT, I LOST MY-SELF IN DESPAIR. ONE DAY I HIT A PRO-FESSOR AND DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE
WHEN I LOST HER FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED THAT THE ONE I REALLY LOVED WAS HER, AND HER ALONE
SO THAT'S WHY EMMELINE'S CASE AFFECTED HIM SO
I RAN AS FAST AS I POSSI-BLY COULD.
SO NEXT I GOT TOLD BY MY FATHER THAT HE WAS DISINHERITING ME, THAT HE WOULDN'T GIVE THE TITLE TO A MAN LIKE THAT.
BUT THE CARRI-AGE

AND ALSO, MORE THAN ANY-THING, THE SLENDER, GRACEFULLY-FLOWING WHITE NAPE OF THE NECK...! I FELL IN-LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
AROUND THAT TIME, UNEXPECTEDLY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOWN, I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF SOME-ONE... THE IMAGE OF THE WOMAN WHOSE PHOTO I KEPT IN MY POCKET-WATCH
THOSE LOOKS, THAT WAY OF LAUGHING, A LITTLE OF HER BEHAVIOR EVEN
WITH MERRY-WEATHER?
WITH.
TEN YEARS OF DIFFER-ENCE?
THERE'S TEN YEARS OF DIFFER-ENCE IN OUR AGES, BUT IN TEN YEARS, THAT'LL BE NOTHING!
W-W-WAIT A SEC
SFX RATTLE-RATTLE-RATTLE
BESIDES, I'M NOT JUST GOOFING AROUND THIS TIME, I'M SERIOUS!
I'M BEGGING YOU, CAIN' IF I CAN CATCH A GIRL FROM THE HARGREAVES FAMILY, POPS HAS GOT TO CHANGE HIS MIND!
I REALLY, TRULY MEAN IT...YOU MUST Believe Me!!
dangerous girl in every

SO ANYWAY, TO ME THIS WAS A TWO-BIRDS-AND-ONE-STONE BIG PROJECT! EMMELINE TOTALLY SAW THROUGH ME IN A HEARTBEAT, BUT I'M BEGGING HERE, CAIN -- GIVE ME MERRY! COME ON, SAY SOMETHING
WHA..
HUH
I'M ALREADY SO, YOU KNOW
LIKE I SAID I WAS A QUEER STUDENT
LIKE BLOODY HELL I WILL!
YOU THINK I'D EVER GIVE MY PRECIOUS LITTLE SISTER TO A MAN WITH SUCH FILTHY ULTERIOR MOTIVES?
ER SURE YOU WOULD?
AH—
THIS IS... SIR OSCAR'S FORMER FIANCEE?
CAN I CALL YOU BIG BROTHER LIKE SHE DOES?
.....
I SEE SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS
GOD STOP IT ALREADY I'M IN A FOUL ENOUGH MOOD AS IT IS

THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE SCAPEGOAT, NASH, HAVE BEEN APPLIED PERFECTLY.
SECOND TIER MINOR ARCANA SOUL TAKER DR. JEZEBEL DISRAELI.
THIS... THIS IMPERIOUS, WARY GAZE.
THESE LIPS, WITH SUCH A FAINTLY MOCKING SMILE
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT,
RATHER THAN MISS MERRY, THE ONE SHE LOOKS LIKE IS MAS.
AND BESIDES, THE THROAT HE REACHED FOR BE-LONGED TO...
mind control
SAW NO-THING WHATSO-EVER
WHY WOULD I HAVE SEEN ANYTHING? I'M ONLY THE BUTLER, AFTER ALL.
THAT'S IT, I DIDN'T SEE A THING!
Stop making such a fuss
WHOOSH

OF COURSE I DIDN'T LET HIM KNOW MY TRUE ALLEGI-ANCE.
BEFORE I TREATED HIM WITH HYPNOTISM AND GAVE HIM SOME-THING TO COUNTER-ACT THE DRUGS A LITTLE
IT WAS BECAUSE GILFORD ROTTERDALE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO REGAIN HIS MEMORIES.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY DID YOU HASTEN THE TERMINATION OF THE DOLL WITHOUT PERMIS-SION?
JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE GIRLS..
THEN WHY DID YOU KILL EMMELINE ROTTER-DALE?
THE FACT THAT SHE WAS CAIN'S FIANCEE WAS JUST A COINCI-DENCE.
THERE WAS NO-THING ELSE I COULD DO. WORK-ING UNDER SUCH STRINGENT CONDITIONS I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER SUITABLE GIRL.
IN THE SECOND PLACE..
I EXPECT TO RECEIVE AN EXPLANATION OF WHY YOU CONTACTED GILFORD ROTTER-DALE

IF YOU INTEND IT AS A SILENT REPROACH ABOUT THAT MATTER,
PERHAPS YOUR FACE NEEDS ANOTHER SCAR OR SOME SUCH
WHAT IS IT WITH THIS HAIR.
JEZEBEL?
LOOK AT FATHER'S PRESENT FOR YOU.
JEZEBEL.
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN TOLD TO STOP MEDDLING WITH CAIN.
NO EXCEPTIONS ARE PERMITTED FOR DEFYING MY ORDERS. THE PUNISHMENT WILL BE
THAT PLACE FULL OF FOND OLD MEMORIES
ONCE AGAIN.

WHAT'S WRONG? JUST LIKE IT USED TO BE...
WHEN YOU SCREAM AND BEG, CLINGING TO MY FEET, THERE'S NO-TH NG THAT I WOULDN'T FORGIVE YOU.
NOT EVEN
IF IT KILLS ME
I SEE
DO YOU LOVE IT THAT MUCH? HOW YOU'VE CHANGED, MY BOY
HA HA HA

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME.
TELL ME ONE THING, PLEASE
YOUR INFORM-ANT... WAS IT CASSIAN?
WHAT, DO YOU MEAN THE CARD UNDER MY DIRECT SUPER-VISION?
..I SEE
I CAN DO IT ALONE.
IN THAT CASE. FINE.
SO, THEN. COME HERE.
BE SURE TO HOLD ON TIGHT

HANG ON WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH
THIS IS GOING TO BE PAINFUL.
JEZEBEL
FINALLY, THE IN-
HER NAME WAS MELE-DIANNA EVERETT
WE'VE UNCOVERED THE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT WHEN ELFOOD AND A GIRL OF A DIFFERENT SOCIAL CLASS HAD ATTEMPTED A LOVERS' SUICIDE.. AND YET ONLY THE GIRL HAD DIED
IT SEEMS THAT ELFOOD'S MIND FIRST BEGAN TO BECOME UNSTABLE AROUND THAT TIME
SO SHE WAS WALKING AROUND THE ROTTER-DALES' GARDEN
FROM HER
AH OF COURSE
SO THE SACRIFICE LEFT SLEEPING IN THAT COFFIN REALLY WAS ELSIE CARSON

I IMAGINE YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
HOW TEDIOUS,
BIG BROTHER!
COME ON, LET'S GO!
MY OBSTINATE, SPIRITED PRINCESS..
BEING STUCK WITH YOU THE WHOLE TIME I'M DEAD!
AND SO...
EMMELINE NOW LIES SLEEPING IN THE HAR- GREAVES FAMILY'S GRAVEYARD.
EH—— WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? A PROPER YOUNG GENTLEMAN WOULD MOURN FOR A DECENT INTERVAL HAVE YOU NO SHAME?
WELL, THEN—— I'M OFF TO AMUSE MYSELF IN THE CITY FOR A WHILE!
If I go back to the mansion, that uncouth buffoon of a man is going to traipse along after me!
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE HER THERE IN THAT CRUEL AND TRAGIC ROTTERDALE FAMILY'S LAND...

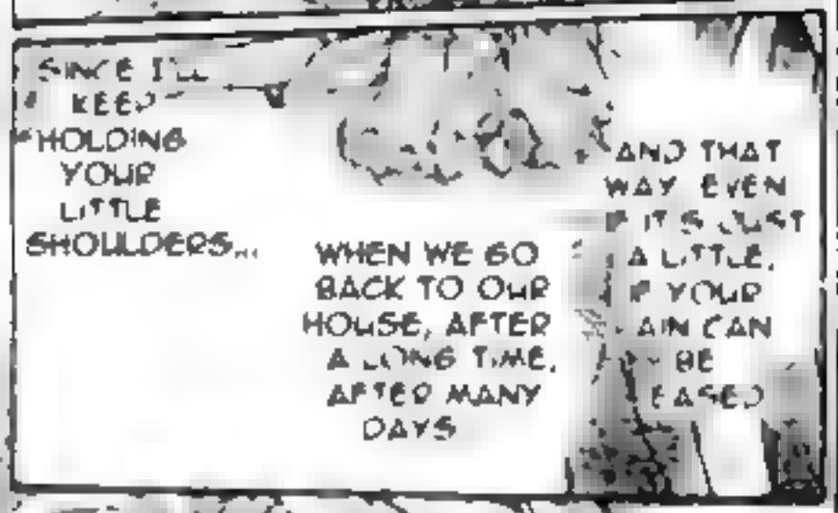
I'VE FOUND HIM!
drip
THAT MAN——
THE MAN WITH THE RING, WHO TOOK MY LIFE—— MY DAUGHTER ——
I'VE FINALLY FOUND HIM——
ohoho

THAT VOICE — RESOUNDING IN MY HEAD — I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE!
I HATE YOU!
DIE!

SILFORD!!
WHAT HAPPENED ?
RE AND THEO ?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT IT'S MELODY ISN'T IT ?
THAT VOICE
M MELODY ?
YEAH I TRAMPLED HIS FEET I BEAT HIM !
IT'S REALLY YOU ISN'T IT THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH ME ?
I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN... CAUSE HE WAS TOO STRONG
CAUSE HE BULLIED YOU DON'T ME ? I COULD SEE YOU CRYING
I WAS ALL LOCKED UP WAY DOWN INSIDE ..

AH LOVELY
I REALLY REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN
MM MMM! YOU DID IT... YOU WERE STRONGER, GILFORD..
THAT'S WHERE I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS...
INSTEAD OF THAT CHRISTMAS TREE THIS TIME IN A BALLOON FILLED WITH BLOOMING FLOWERS
YOUR GOLDEN HAIR FLOATING IN THE WIND CONTRASTED WITH BLUE WEAR
MY SWEET DAD LOVE MERRY
NO! NO! NOOOOO!
MERRY
NOOO!
YOU IDIOT!
NO!
NOT TO BE
YOUR FACE
LITTLE BY LITTLE.

MERRY, SOBBING UNTIL YOUR HEART IS EMPTY .. UNTIL YOU HAVE NO TEARS LEFT..


SINCE I'LL KEEP HOLDING YOUR LITTLE SHOULDERS...
WHEN WE GO BACK TO OUR HOUSE, AFTER A LONG TIME, AFTER MANY DAYS
AND THAT WAY EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, IF YOUR PAIN CAN BE EASED

BACK THEN
I REALLY THOUGHT .. THAT MELEDIANNA WOULD COME HOME WITH US TOO BUT
BUT THEN I REALIZED...
RIFF

AND THAT [illegible] THERE WAS ONLY ONE LITTLE [illegible] AND FOUR THE TOWER OF [illegible]

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S DANGER-OUS.
WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME NOW?
THIS GENTLE, COMFORT-NG CHAIN YOU'VE BOUND ME W TH
I'LL NEVER AGAIN BELONG ONLY TO MYSELF
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT...!
MASTER CAIN ?
THE PAIN IS DIFFER-ENT
WHEN I WAS SEPAR-ATED FROM MY FATHER. THE TEARS THAT YOU STOPPED...!
SINCE THEN, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CRY
THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD THING THAT YOU OONE, BUT
I'M NOT ALONE ANY-MORE
THEN MAYBE THE WOUNDS IN MY SOUL CAN'T EVER BE HEALED...!
BUT IF I CAN'T EVER WASH AWAY THE SUFFER-ING BY CRY-ING ALOUD..

THAT DAY, THE BODY OF A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WAS DISCOVERED IN FRONT OF HER DAUGHTER'S GRAVE

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DETERMINED TO BE BLEEDING FROM AN UNTENDED GUNSHOT WOUND IN HER SHOULDER

MARK OF THE RED RAM / ~FIN

Elizabeth in the Looking-Glass

鏡中的伊莉莎白

Akai Hitsuji no
Kokuin Book 2 #6

Translated by
Risu-chan and
edited by daemonAngel
for Sakura-Crisis.net

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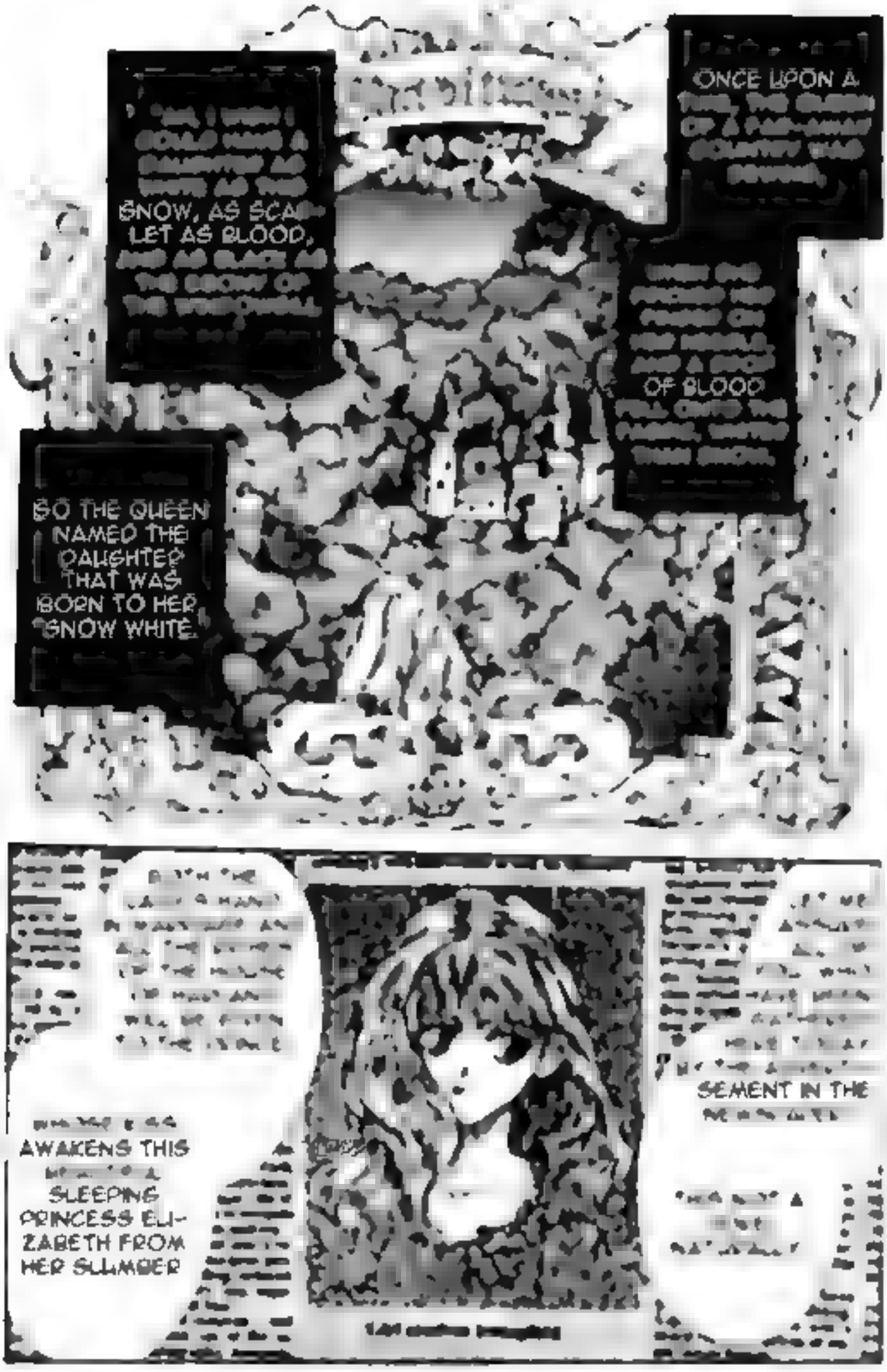

ONCE UPON A
SNOW, AS SCAR-
LET AS BLOOD,
OF BLOOD
SO THE QUEEN
NAMED THE
DAUGHTER
THAT WAS
BORN TO HER,
"SNOW WHITE."
AWAKENS THIS
SLEEPING
PRINCESS ELI-
ZABETH FROM
HER SLUMBER

IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE A FAIRY TALE, BUT IT IS MY ONLY WISH FOR MY DAUGHTER
ALL I ASK IS THAT THAT PERSON GRANT MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER UNENDING HAPPINESS.
A PRINCE'S KISS TO AWAKEN THE SLEEPING SNOW WHITE, EH SOMEHOW, THAT BEAUTIFUL NOBLEWOMAN ACTUALLY SEEMS TO BE SERIOUS
MEN ARE EVEN COMING ALL THE WAY FROM THE MIDDLE OF LONDON AIMING FOR THE HARLAD FORTUNE AND THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
CAIN
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF A HOBBY--- AFTER ALL, WASN'T THE APPLE THAT SNOW WHITE ATE, POISONED?
(NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT YOU, YOU CAN'T BE MORE THAT WHAT, 13? 14?)
I'M RUPERT MARLEY AND YOUR NAME IS ?
SEEMS LIKE YOU WANT TO BE A CONTENDTER TOO. . . BUT YOU'RE AWFULLY YOUNG FOR IT, AREN'T YOU?

THAT SELF-COMPOSED, BEAUTIFUL YOUNG BOY
WHERE HAVE I SEEN HIM BEFORE ?
SO VERY WELL-DRESSED, TOO.
GOOD-NESS
HUH. ?
THIS IS ELIZABETH'S RESTING-PLACE
COME, IT'S THIS WAY
WELL, THEN— EVERYONE, SHALL WE GO STRAIGHT TO HER BED-ROOM?
IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER FOR A YEAR, AFTER ALL . . .

ALL I WANT IS TO GRANT MY DARLING DAUGHTER THE DREAM SHE ASKED FOR
ANYONE WHO IS DISSATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENT, PLEASE LEAVE US NOW
"TO THE MAN WHO WILL, A YEAR AFTER MY DEATH, WAKE ME FROM MY SLEEP WITH A KISS,
BEQUEATH THE HOUSE AND ALL WITHIN IT," SHE SAYS
WILL?
I AM THE FAMILY'S LAWYER, JOEY NICHOLS
AND THIS IS MISS ELIZABETH CLEA HOLLAND'S WILL.
RUPERT, YOU'RE NOT LEAVING?
Sloosh
CALL IT A DREAM OR WHATEVER, BUT I WANT TO TRY IT AND SEE
I'M FLAT-OUT BROKE, A STUDENT, YOU KNOW... BUT.. IF IT'S JUST A HORRID ROTTING CORPSE, I AM SO OUT OF HERE .
AH, HELL-- I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WAS RIGGED FROM THE BEGINNING
"KISS A CORPSE THAT'S BEEN ROTTING FOR A YEAR," SHE SAID?!
UGH-!
PREPOSTEROUS!
ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN WITH US-- I'M GOING HOME!

COME-- OPEN THE COFFIN FOR THEM.
OH MY-- SUCH MORBID CURIOSITY! BUT I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT, IS THERE
SEE WELL, FOR THE MOMENT, CAN WE ASK YOU TO SHOW US THE PRINCESS' FACE?
JUST SHUT UP AND DO YOUR JOB!
HEY, IS IT REALLY OKAY, DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
CRASH!
GAH--!

AH-- AHH--!
RIDIC-ULOUS-- IT CAN'T BE !
YOU SAID THIS IS A CORPSE THAT'S BEEN HERE A YEAR ALREADY ...?!
O-DOESN'T SHE LOOK LIKE SHE'S ACTUALLY ALIVE !
SKIN AS WHITE AS SNOW LIPS AS RED AS BLOOD GOLDEN HAIR AS FINE AS SILKEN THREAD
BEAUTY WITHOUT A SINGLE MARK OF DECAY...
A GIRL IN A GLASS COFFIN WHO TRULY SEEMS AS THOUGH SHE MIGHT GET UP AT ANY MOMENT

WILD TALK
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING . . .?!
NO MATTER HOW WELL PRESERVED IT IS .THAT BODY LOOKS LIKE IT TRULY IS SLEEPING, DOESN'T IT
AND THE CAUSE OF LIZZIE'S DEATH WAS.. ?
THAT-- THAT CAN'T BE! I'M SURE MY DAUGHTER PASSED AWAY A YEAR AGO!
HER LUNGS
THAT'S RIGHT, THE DOCTOR SAID IT WAS CONSUMPTION.. SHE SUFFERED SO TERRIBLY.. IF I COULD HAVE, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT PAIN IN HER PLACE .!
"LIZZIE'S" ?

BECAUSE THE BODY IS SO EXCELLENTLY PRESERVED, THERE WERE COUNTLESS HAND MARKS STILL LEFT VISIBLE
JUST LIKE CINDERELLA'S MOTHER'S BEHAVIOUR, ISN'T IT?
THEY WERE UNMISTAKABLY MARKS LEFT FROM HAVING BEEN BEATEN.
EH?!
IF YOUR DAUGHTER WAS SO PRECIOUS TO YOU, THEN WHY ALL THE BEATINGS?
EH?
YOU KNOW WHAT? IT'S SAID THAT ACONITE, USED IN MEDIEVAL ROME AND PLACES LIKE THAT FOR ASSASSINATIONS AND THE MURDER OF STEP-CHILDREN, WAS CALLED "THE STEPMOTHER'S POISON."
IN THE VICTORIAN ERA, IT HAS AGAIN BECOME USED FOR MANY PURPOSES. AND THE PURGATIVE FORM--TARTARIC ACID AND ANTIMONIAL POTASSIUM--HAS ONE ADDITIONAL, INTRIGUING EFFECT
A VARIETY OF STRONG POISON--USED QUITE DIFFERENTLY THAN ARSENIC, SOLUBLE, COLOURLESS, TASTELESS, ODORLESS
BECAUSE OF THAT, I REMEMBERED-- LADY HARLAND, DO YOU KNOW OF A POISON CALLED ANTIMONY?

WELL, MY LOVELY MADAM ?
IN OTHER WORDS, IT HAS THE SECONDARY EFFECT OF PRESERVING A CORPSE SO WELL THAT ONE CANNOT BE CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THE BODY IS EMBALMED. JUST LIKE LIZZIE'S CORPSE, DON'T YOU THINK?
STOP IT--!
AHA-- SO SHE WAS ACTUALLY YOUR STEP-CHILD, WAS SHE?
"ggle"
IT-- IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE THAT LITTLE SPEECH IS A WAY TO ACCUSE ME OF POISONING THAT CHILD !
SHE'S MY FOSTER DAUGHTER; THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT QUESTIONABLE INHERITED TRAITS SHE HAD--

JOEY! ESCORT ME BACK TO MY ROOM, PLEASE!
ER-- YES, MY LADY!
OH, THAT MUSTN'T BE ALLOWED, REALLY
I-- FORGIVE ME
SUDDENLY, I'VE BEGUN TO FEEL QUITE ILL.
AH--!
JOEY! I REMEMBER NOW-- THAT BOY, THOSE EYES ...AND POISON!
THE FAMOUS FAMILY OF NOBLEMEN WHO COLLECT POISONS-- HE'S JUST RECENTLY BECOME THE LATEST COUNT: CAIN HARGREAVES!
HOW ON EARTH ? HONESTLY--IT'S LIKE THOSE EYES OF HIS COULD HAVE SEEN THROUGH EVERY BIT OF IT, THOSE GOLDEN EYES..
AND BESIDES-- WHY DOES HE KNOW THE DETAILS OF THAT POISON SO INTIMATELY SO

NO-- IN ADDITION, THAT BOY CALLED ELIZABETH "LIZZIE".. LIKE A FRIEND
EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SO MANY NICKNAMES FOR ELIZABETH, LIKE "BESS" OR "LIZ" OR "BETTY"
THAT'S RIGHT-- I CALGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM TWO OR THREE TIMES AT PARTIES... THAT'S WHY HE KNOWS POISONS IN SUCH DETAIL!
BUT-- THE SON OF A DISTINGUISHED NOBLE FAMILY...? IT CAN'T BE! HE'D HAVE NO NEED TO SET HIS SIGHTS ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS FAMILY'S FORTUNE
IT'S TRUE!
THAT BOY KNEW SHE WAS CALLED LIZZIE!
BESS, YOU KNOW-- BESS IS MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND.. SHE LIVES IN THE MIRROR
SPEAKING OF WHICH, LIZZIE HERSELF
AND THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR IS "BESS"
SHE HAS THE SAME FACE, AND SHE'S NAMED ELIZABETH TOO, BUT THE ONE ON THIS SIDE OF THE MIRROR IS CALLED "LIZZIE"
'CAUSE SHE'S ANOTHER ME
WHENEVER I'M SAD, WHENEVER I'M LONELY SHE'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ME...

MISS ELIZABETH WAS VERY LONELY, WASN'T SHE?

PRETTY LITTLE ELIZABETH..
WHOM THE LORD OF THIS HOUSE BOUGHT FROM SOMEWHERE, BECAUSE HE COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN..!

IS THAT WHY YOU GAVE HER SUCH-- 'COMFORTING'? DO YOU THINK I DON'T NOTICE ANYTHING, JOEY?

SHE WAS SEPARATED FROM HER SISTER, AND THEY'D BEEN SO CLOSE, SHE ALWAYS LOOKED SO SAD.

SOMETIMES IT'D BE BETTER IF I COULD GO IN THERE TOO..

I WANT TO PLAY WITH BESS IN THE WORLD INSIDE THE MIRROR...

LIKE "ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS."

JOEY ?!
JOEY, ARE YOU IN HERE?
THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS AND THE CARD --
BUMP!
SHATTER!

THAT'S RIGHT! I MADE SURE SHE'D SEE US. WHEN I HEARD THE GIRL CALLING YOUR NAME IT WAS A WELL-DESERVED RETRIBUTION, AFTER ALL. BECAUSE SHE DARED TO REACH OUT FOR SOMETHING THAT WAS MINE

YOU MEAN, THAT TIME, YOU DELIBERATELY--?!
IT CAN'T BE

ARE YOU WONDERING HOW I DID IT, JOEY?

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT POOR GIRL YOU REALLY DID GIVE HER...

STUPID LITTLE SNOW WHITE.

SHE DRANK BRANDY AND SODA I MADE FOR HER EVERY DAY, WITHOUT A SINGLE MOMENT OF SUSPICION.

'STEPMOTHER, I'M SO HAPPY! UNTIL NOW, I THOUGHT YOU REALLY HATED ME,' SHE SAID SO HAPPILY THAT SHE HAD TEARS IN HER EYES!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I GAVE HER SOMETHING IN A KIND WAY, SO SHE WAS COMPLETELY ESTATIC.

SHUT YOUR MOUTH! YOU SHUT YOUR FILTHY MOUTH AND DO AS I TELL YOU! TALKING TO ME LIKE THAT-- I PICKED YOU UP FROM AN EAST END GUTTER!

SPLASH!

HOW COULD YOU...?! EVEN THOUGH THE LORD LEFT HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE TO HIS DAUGHTER .. TO DO SUCH A THING TO MISS ELIZABETH, WHO WAS TRYING SO HARD TO BE SOMEONE WHOM YOU WOULD LOVE!

HURRY UP AND FINISH OFF THAT IDIOT LIZZIE'S LAST REQUEST TOMORROW.
AND BURN THAT HORRIBLE CORPSE!
AND THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING FAIRY TALE WILL FINALLY BE OVER WITH!
JUST LET ME GET MY HANDS ON THE FORTUNE, AND LET'S BID THIS PLACE GOOD RIDDANCE TOGETHER.
YOU'RE MINE, YOU KNOW.
DON'T FORGET THAT
IN A CASTLE HIDDEN DEEP, DEEP IN THE FOREST,
THERE WAS A CRUEL QUEEN AND A KNIGHT WHO HAD BECOME HER LOVE-SLAVE.
AND ALSO, A TRAGIC, PITIFUL, IGNORANTLY TRUSTING PRINCESS.
YOU BELONG TO YOUR QUEEN, DON'T YOU?
JOEY.

THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST TO BE SAFE I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THE BRANDY SODA
WHAT?! I'M SURE IT WAS HERE--
!

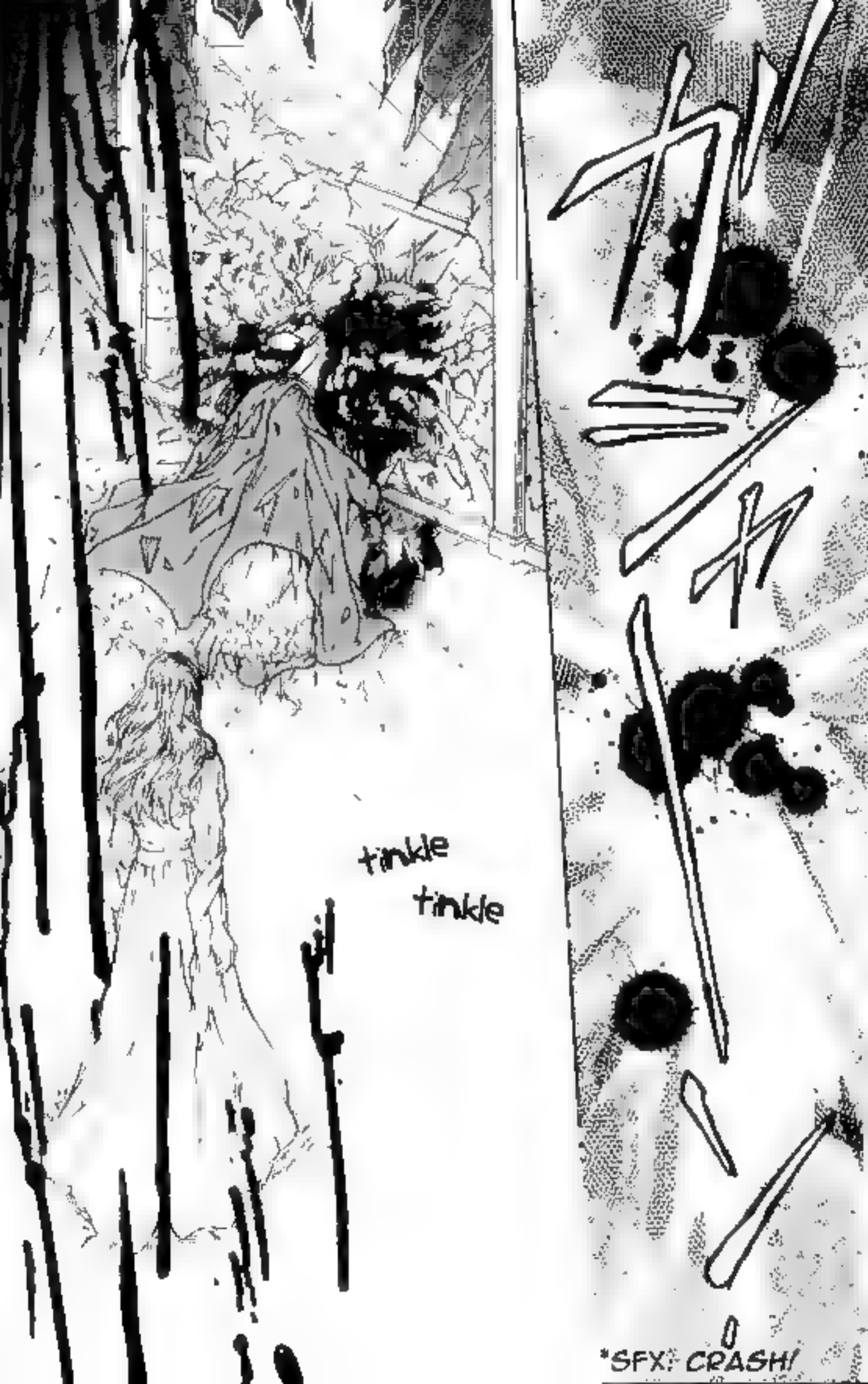
HAH.
*SFX: AIIIIIIEEEEEEEE--!
WHAM!
MY LADY --!?
LET'S GO, CAIN.
RIGHT
PLEASE, MY LADY, CALM YOURSELF! EVERYONE ELSE-- LET ME HANDLE THIS ALONE; IT'LL BE FINE...
AHH-- AAAHH. JOEY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED...?
L-LIZZIE LIZZIE... SHE'S!
LADY HARLAND? THIS IS

RUPERT, THAT'S AN INTERESTING NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARING.
YEAH, IT'S HALF OF A COIN FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH'S TIME IT'S KIND OF MY HOLY RELIC.
WELL, THEN-- I BELIEVE MY DAUGHTER WOULD LIKE FOR HER WILL TO BE EXECUTED NOW
PLEASE, LINE UP THIS WAY
YES-- THE FASTER THIS IS OVER WITH, THE BETTER.
BUT GOOD LORD, WHAT A PACK OF IMPOVERISHED IDIOTS .NO MATTER WHAT THEY DREAM ABOUT, A CORPSE CAN'T COME BACK TO LIFE, CAN IT?
RIGHT THAT THING I SAW YESTERDAY IT WAS DEFINITELY A DREAM.
FOR A CORPSE TO COME BACK TO

..COME BACK TO..
A CORPSE CAN'T COME BACK TO LIFE---!

SO THIS TIME, PLEASE, STEP-MOTHER, YOU DRINK IT ALL DOWN !
HERE. THIS BRANDY SODA YOU SO KINDLY MADE FOR ME, STEP-MOTHER.
IT MADE ME SO HAPPY..
STEPMOTHER I'VE COME BACK OUT OF THE MIRROR.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
AAAH!
COME ON
HURRY UP..!
KYAAAAAAA!
HELP ME--!
DRINK IT!!
I'M NOT BESS, I'M LIZZIE

gasp
SOME-
ONE
F-
FORBIVE
ME...!
SAVE
ME--!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*SFX: CRASH!

ALL THE REST OF THEM HAVE SCATTERED LIKE SPIDER-HATCHLINGS IN THE WIND ..
MY HANDS ARE ALL BLOOD-STA NED, SO
NOW, I CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT HAPPY COUNTRY .N MY DREAMS.
IT LOOKS LIKE SNOW WHITE'S REVENGE HAS COME TO QUITE A TIDY CONCLu-SION,
DOESN'T IT, JOEY?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO .? NOW I CAN'T GO BACK INTO THE MIRROR

COUNT HAR-GREAVES
IT LOOKS THAT WAY, DOESN'T IT,
SWISH
YEAH
BESIDES UNLESS HE SUDDENLY GOT A LOT TALLER WAS IT LAST NIGHT WHEN YOU TRADED PLACES WITH THAT GIRL WHO'S BEEN THE OTHER "RUPERT"?
THE RUPERT I'D TALKED TO WAS THE SHY TYPE, AND KEPT HIMSELF SEPARATE FROM THE OTHERS, UNTIL TODAY
WHAT I KNEW WAS THAT, RATHER THAN BEING LIZZIE'S IMAGINARY OTHER PERSON IN THE MIRROR, BESS WAS JUST HER ELDER-BORN TWIN SISTER, SEPARATED FROM HER YEARS AGO.
YOU'RE BESS, AREN'T YOU?
HAVE YOU KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING, THEN?
THAT "RUPERT" WAS MY DISGUISE, I MEAN..

SHE SHOWED ME THE SAME COIN.
SHE SAID THAT WHEN SHE WAS SEPARATED FROM HER SISTER, THEY PRAYED "FOR OUR SOULS TO ALWAYS BE TOGETHER..." AND EACH OF THEM TOOK HALF OF THE COIN
YOU SHOWED ME THE COIN LAST NIGHT, AFTER ALL.
A YEAR AGO, I HAPPENED TO MEET THE FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD LIZZIE IN THIS GARDEN.
THERE'S SOMEBODY I REALLY LOVE.
I THOUGHT HE WAS A PRINCE
YOU KNOW..
WHIP-SCARS, AREN'T THEY
DOESN'T DOESN'T ANYONE LOVE YOU?
IF I'D JUST KEPT ON SLEEPING IN THAT GLASS COFFIN, FOREVER AND EVER.. UNTIL SOME-THING PLEASANT WOKE ME.. UNTIL MY PRINCE CAME FOR ME..
BUT I WAS WRONG HE WAS JUST SOME-THING MY STEP-MOTHER OWNED
I..IT'D BE BETTER IF I'D NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE THAT

I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT.../ I WANT TO KEEP DREAMING...
YOU'RE WRONG!
NOOO..!!
COME HERE
IT'S THAT GREAT?
I'M A BOY WHO'S CURSED, BUT HE TREATS ME LIKE I'M AN ESSENTIAL PART OF HIS LIFE.
SOMEDAY, SURELY, THE PRINCE WILL BE FOR REAL.
NOW I'VE GOT SOMEONE SO I'M NOT ALONE.
I'LL COME BACK A YEAR FROM NOW. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOUR PRINCE WILL HAVE APPEARED BY THEN.
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
MM-HMM..
THEN I WONDER IF I SHOULD GO BACK TO SLEEP UNTIL THEN

WE CARRIED HER TO HIS ROOM TOGETHER LAST NIGHT.
. . . . .
LIZZIE'S REAL BODY, FROM IN-SIDE THAT COFFIN...
...MISS ELIZABETH IS CALLING ME.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
. . . . .
IF I DO, SURELY . . . A YEAR
WILL GO PAST LIKE THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WON'T IT . . .
ABOUT THAT COIN... JOEY HEARD IT TOO, YOU KNOW. HE FOUND OUT THAT I WAS BESS LAST NIGHT WHEN HE CAME TO MY ROOM...
YOU WERE A FOOL, LIZZIE-- EVEN THOUGH YOUR PRINCE WAS SO CLOSE TO YOU, YOU WENT AND...
SO WE PLANN-ED IT TOGE-THER.
I'D GET INTO THE COFFIN IN LIZZIE'S PLACE, AND THIS TIME, HE'D DRESS UP AS RUPERT...
AH-- FINALLY, MY CARRIAGE HAS COME TO PICK ME UP!
RIFF! OVER HERE!

WHY WOULD YOU? FAIRY-TALE REVENGES ARE ALWAY CRUEL.
I'M SATISFIED. I'LL GO TO THE POLICE OR WHAT-EVER YOU LIKE.
SO... MY SISTER'S ENEMY HAS BEEN DES-TROYED.
THEN SHE MADE HER STEPMOTHER PUT ON RED-HOT IRON SHOES AND WATCHED HER DANCE MADLY IN AGONY UNTIL SHE DIED.
TAKE SNOW WHITE--AND THE STEPMOTHER WHO TRIED TO KILL HER AND EAT HER HEART AND LIVER...
WOMEN ARE SCARY, YOU KNOW?
RED AS BLOOD, THAT PRINCESS!
SNOW WHITE MADE SURE TO SEND HER STEP-MOTHER AN INVITA-TION TO HER WED-DING--
WHITE AS SNOW,
BLACK AS THE WINDOWSILL,

ELI-ZA-BETH . . .
I OUGHT TO SAY IT, REALLY. WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY, WITHOUT FEAR...
I'M... ALREADY TOO LATE, BUT
YOU WON'T GRANT ME THE GIFT OF WAKING UP FOR MY KISS, WILL YOU?
IN THAT CASE,
LADY ELIZABETH . . .
IT'S BETTER IF I SLEEP TOO, ISN'T IT...

*SFX: BLAM!
THAT WAS A GUN-SHOT --!
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT THE PRINCE HAS GONE TO MEET SNOW WHITE, YOU SEE...